



"Love never fails"

"Love never fails. Let us love one another, for love is of God" (I Cor. 13:8; I John 4:7). Courting swans make a Valentine picture. The birds are the property of a retired doctor, Cornel Petrassevich, and live on his lake in Philadelphia, Miss. (Photo by Tom Brown. Used by permission of the Neshoba Democrat.)

The Baptist Record

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Nurse takes Christ's love to rural dwellers of Peru

By Martha Skelton

CAJAMARCA, Peru (BP) — The woman in the big straw hat and poncho turns to a gathering of "campesinos" (rural dwellers), shrugs her shoulders, smiles and says, in their dialect, "Cholera is not a disease; it is when my husband gives me a stomach ache." They laugh at this old saying.

The woman in the straw hat, "Senora Abdulia," is actually Baptist nurse Consuelo Lezcano using her dramatic flair to get across to the people living around Cajamarca, Peru, that cholera is a disease. And it kills.

When the Cajamarca area was hit last spring with part of Peru's worst outbreak of cholera in this century, Consuelo was one of the health professionals to go into high gear to treat and try to prevent the spread of the disease. Her heart is with the "campesinos," those Peruvians who live by barely subsistence farming in the Andes villages and valleys surrounding Cajamarca. She appreciates the wisdom and natural understanding of the "campesinos" but she also knows their limited education leaves them skeptical about the idea that invisible microbes cause disease.

A health worker in another village was told a disease wasn't causing the deaths, but an old woman with white hair was eating the people.

So Consuelo, prompted by her Christian love and concern, uses her nursing and communication skills to tell "campesinos" to wash their hands, boil water, eat nutritious food, and follow other precautions that could make a real difference in their lives.

This fight for their lives is ironic, since a few years before, Consuelo herself had come back to Cajamarca to die. She had left home for training and work in Lima. But when one kidney failed and the second became very diseased, she thought the situation hopeless. She and her husband decided to return to Cajamarca. "If I'm going to die, I'll die here," she said.

They built a house next to Cajamarca Baptist Church. While working in her yard, she heard singing across the way — "no big deal," she says. Then her health crisis brought on a faith crisis. "I felt like I had done so much for God, why wasn't he taking away my kidney problems?" She followed the songs to the church and talked with pastor Carlos Palacios and Southern Baptist missionary Ken Bowie. She accepted Christ in 1983.

Becoming a Christian gave her a special drive to help people. "I felt closer to the sick to give all I have, to not withhold anything.

"Going to the campo (countryside) is more important than anything," she says. Consuelo is dedicated to following the steps of Christ in her work. "I

see the life of Christ, see who he spent his life with — people who didn't read, who didn't have anything."

Consuelo, the church, and local Southern Baptist missionaries have forged a partnership to provide social and evangelistic outreach in Cajamarca.

The church set up a clinic in which Consuelo works since retiring from full-time nursing. Bowie assisted the church and the nurse in getting needed medicines and equipment. All this already was in place when the cholera firestorm hit.

This story first appeared in THE COMMISSION, monthly journal of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Skelton is associate editor of the journal.



LISTEN UP! — Peruvian Baptist nurse Consuelo Lezcano tours the rural countryside around Cajamarca, Peru, telling anyone who will listen that the killer disease cholera can be stemmed by better hygiene. Here she instructs two boys while their father listens. To many mountain dwellers in Peru, it is strange to think microorganisms invisible to the naked eye can bring sickness and death. Lezcano has formed a partnership with a local Baptist church and Southern Baptist missionaries to provide social and evangelistic outreach in Peru. She explains sanitation using dramatic lectures and demonstrations. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

SBC statistics 1990-91

	1991	1990	1991-1990 Numerical	Change Percent
Churches	38,221	37,974	247	0.7
Baptisms	396,668	385,031	11,637	3.0
Church Membership	15,238,283	15,044,413	193,870	1.3
Ongoing Sunday School Enrollment	8,183,801	8,009,498	174,303	2.2
Discipleship Training Enrollment/Participation	2,202,527	2,206,252	-3,725	-0.2
Ongoing Music Ministry Enrollment	1,875,610	1,837,428	38,182	2.1
Ongoing WMU Enrollment	1,200,713	1,197,987	2,726	0.2
Brotherhood Enrollment/Participation	601,694	593,844	7,850	1.3
Missions Expenditures	\$ 732,090,978	\$ 718,476,262	\$ 13,614,716	1.9
Total Tithes, Offerings, and Special Gifts	\$4,704,986,720	\$4,567,834,980	\$137,151,740	3.0

Disaster relief volunteers clear way for church start

FALMOUTH, Mass. (BP) — A new Southern Baptist witness in the Cape Cod area is now under way here thanks in large measure to the work of disaster relief crews who arrived in the wake of Hurricane Bob last August.

Their involvement is credited for the "positive, receptive atmosphere" that greeted D.J. and Jeannette Omakhaill as Home Mission Board church planter apprentices in Falmouth, according to Larry Martin, director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association.

Last Aug. 20, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units involving volunteers from 12 states headed for New England after Hurricane Bob hit the coast with winds in excess of 115 miles per hour. With their mobile feeding units and other equipment in tow, they served more than 12,000 hot

meals and cleaned up 1,500 truck loads of debris in two weeks.

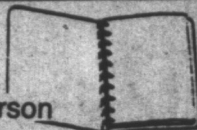
"The efforts of the disaster relief workers really prepared the climate that allowed this effort at church planting to occur," Martin said. "I am asking all Southern Baptists to pray for the Omakhaills as they begin this effort, for additional funding which is needed, and for the receptivity of people in the area."

The couple will begin with Bible study classes in their home in hopes of establishing a mission chapel. Two families from Falmouth and two more from Faith Baptist Church in Carver, Mass., are expected to form the nucleus of the effort.

Last August's efforts by Southern Baptist disaster relief units drew praise from local selectmen (town councilmen) in Falmouth.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



Let's talk

One pastor said concerning the SBC, "We are no longer talking to each other. We are talking about each other." This could be true on the SBC level. We must communicate. Just talking about each other quickly indicates we are apt to follow the lines of Prior:

"They never taste who always drink;

They always talk who never think."

We'd best do some thinking and talking lest the candlestick is removed from us. It's not unlike the child watching his parents proceed toward a divorce. They don't talk. Curt notes are left on the refrigerator or they communicate through the lawyers. Parents who once loved each other are now saying such hurting things. Property is involved, neighbors are amazed, and the strength of the family dissolves. Plus there are the grieving children. "Please, dear God, why can't they settle this?"

In the Far East, the word is "face." Once your face is on the line, you cannot turn back. Your pride would not permit it. Whatever the cost, you maintain face. Oh, that both sons would come into the Father's house where we see the gavel fall and hear the Judge say, "Divorce granted."

Officers are being chosen, agency leaders elected, boards being formed on the basis of their "strong leadership" in this camp or the other. Reconciliation is not the purpose nor the goal. This is apparent when we see fundamental/conservatives who are not fundamental enough to suit the extremes, or moderate/conservatives who are not moderate enough to suit the extreme of that group. Some like to wear their labels like badges of honor while "in honor giving preference to one another" is crumpled like a politician's sign after the election. Extremism is seldom a choice suit to wear.

A word to all of us, including the SBC Executive Committee, our trustees of institutions and agencies, fellowships, and related groups: Take heed, my brothers. Do not think of thyself "more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each a measure of faith . . . be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love . . . continuing steadfastly in prayer . . . be of the same mind toward one another . . . Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord" (Rom. 12).

Communication engineers tell us that communication is an individual problem long before it becomes a mass problem. Our words will represent us; honesty, integrity, and credibility are at stake. Your words are important to someone. "Dad, were you telling the truth or just preaching?" is not the greatest compliment.

Knowledge, understanding, appreciation, and convictions form the silver in a word that will make it ring with truth. Face to face, two-way communication is needed to stop the polarization of the SBC. Slowly, brick by brick as Nehemiah of old, we must rebuild the wall. It's not too late unless effective communication is ruled out.

The hot iron of prayer can press out the wrinkles that divide us. I do not agree with the layman who said, "Many in our parish regard the pulpit as harmless and boring." However, it could well be true that the longer we continue the controversy, the more the lost world will see Southern Baptists in that light.

We can't give up. There is still hope that negotiations can take place, overtures made, forgiveness extended, love proffered, and we can walk together again. The olive leaf is still around.

Administration wants churches to report charitable donations to IRS

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Bush administration wants to require churches and other tax-exempt organizations to report to the Internal Revenue Service the charitable contributions of donors who give more than \$500 annually.

The proposal, part of the administration's fiscal 1993 budget plan, is aimed at helping IRS catch taxpayers who inflate the amount of deductible contributions. According to an administration document, preliminary IRS data shows taxpayers frequently have overstated charitable contributions in filing income tax returns.

The proposal drew criticism from Baptist church-state relations specialists. "It is yet another ill-informed attempt of government officials who apparently have no depth of understanding regarding the dangers of church-state entanglement," said Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn. "It is more serious than a superficial reading would indicate because it represents a recurring pattern of willingness to use the churches for government's purposes. It is none of the business of religion to be a government agent."

Existing law requires most tax-exempt organizations that receive tax deductible contributions to file annual reports (Form 990) identifying donors who give \$5,000 or more in one year. Churches and their related organiza-

tions have been exempt from this requirement.

"That's the way it should be," said J. Brent Walker, associate general counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee. "This proposal opens the door even more for government to intrude into religious affairs and would result in unwholesome church state entanglements. Proposals like this one belie Mr. Bush's public rhetoric about the importance of religion in our country."

Walker said the proposed reporting requirements, which the administration wants in place by July 1, also would create a record-keeping nightmare for churches.

"It would be awfully burdensome for big and small churches alike," Walker said. "Any member who gives as little as \$10 a week will hit the \$500 figure. Multiply that by the millions of church members and you've got a monumental mass of red tape."

The administration's proposal would require churches and other tax-exempt organizations to determine whether the amount is potentially deductible as a charitable gift or whether it is nondeductible because it was received for goods and services — a requirement Walker said could put churches in a "dubious position."

"That should be between the IRS and the taxpayer," he said.

"Churches should not be asked to give tax advice."

According to the Treasury Depart-

ment, the proposal is designed to remedy the problem IRS has in distinguishing between gifts to charities and payments to charities for goods and services, such as admission to entertainment events or purchases made at charity auctions.

Charities with annual gross receipts of less than \$25,000 would be exempt from the reporting requirements. The Treasury Department indicated IRS likely would revise its tax forms to require separate rather than aggregate reporting of charitable gifts.

The administration estimates the change would save the federal treasury \$100 million annually through 1996 and recover \$200 million in 1997. The administration would use the savings to offset the amounts it would lose in providing more favorable tax treatment for gifts of appreciated property and gifts by multinational corporations to charities.

The House Ways and Means Committee was expected to begin taking action on the administration's tax proposals Feb. 12.

Chesser is staff writer, BJCPA.

1918 — The BAPTIST RECORD was purchased by the State Convention from the Mississippi Baptist Publishing Company. P. I. Lipsey was invited to continue as editor, a post he held from 1912-1941.

Observe Baptist Seminary, College and School Day
February 16, 1992

Education in Mississippi

By Farrell Blankenship

"Baptist Higher Education in Mississippi" is a 30-minute video produced by the Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for use by churches and associations.

Churches have a great opportunity during Baptist College and Seminary Week, Feb. 16-22, to show this video to as many groups as possible.

Video Available

The video features Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College including the Clarke Campus, and William

Carey including the New Orleans and Gulf Coast campuses.

Becky Bennett, Blue Mountain; Iris Easterling, William Carey; and Billy Lytal, Mississippi College, wrote the script. In addition Billy Lytal shot the footage and edited the video. Farrell Blankenship, Broadcast Services, MCB, served as producer.

"Baptist Higher Education in Mississippi" video is available through your association office, or you may borrow a copy from the Department of Broadcast Services, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

In memoriam

Tuesday evening, Feb. 4, Sgt. Ricky Joe Simmons of the Jackson Police Department made the final roll call. He was killed in the line of duty, and is survived by his wife, Yonka, and daughters Suzanne and Kathleen.

Mourners came to the memorial service from all over the state on Friday, the 7th — lawmen, friends, the motorcycle patrol, SWAT team, even members of the Washington, D.C. Honor Guard. Jackson's Finest were well represented, their badges covered with black. Blue lights flashed, but no sirens blew as they rolled into place in front of Jackson's First Church.

Inside, "Doc" Bradford, Lawrence

County Sheriff, sang "Rock of Ages," read the Twenty-third Psalm, and shared words of his friend. "Ricky Joe spoke often of his family, his children, and worked hard for their future. He was a front line officer, never backed up; you followed him. He stood tall as an officer, a husband, and a father."

"Ricky Joe now walks a new beat, on streets paved with gold." First Church's pastor, Frank Pollard, continued: "Nothing in God's Word says we have to feel good about this. Christ wept when he walked among hurting people."

"We need to take time to thank all the Ricky Joe Simmonses. Thank you!"

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FBC gives record amount to Lottie

Vicky Heath, right, director of the Woman's Missionary Union for First Church, Jackson, presents a check for \$177,244 to the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the state's WMU. The money was collected through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Shown with Heath are William Maxwell, director of accounting and personnel services at the Convention Board, and Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer for Mississippi's WMU. (Photo by Shannon T. Simpson)

Trustees of FMB avoid confrontation with Parks

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Trustees of the Foreign Mission Board denied they have a "global agenda" to advance their view of theological orthodoxy.

In a special meeting Feb. 10, trustees said they were misrepresented in a Jan. 7 press conference during which two top FMB administrators charged that the trustees' "political" agenda has taken priority over the cause of missions at the FMB.

"This board of trustees does not have a fundamentalist mission agenda for the world," FMB chairman Bill Hancock told trustees, staff, guests, and reporters who gathered in the board's chapel Feb. 10 for what many expected to be a showdown with FMB President Keith Parks.

Trustee leaders earlier met with Parks for two hours behind closed doors, during which they reportedly discussed Parks' handling of the January press conference at which key FMB administrators Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker took early

retirement in protest of board policy in Europe.

Although several trustees said they disagreed with Parks' decision to permit the press conference, the board apparently was satisfied with his explanation.

Several trustees had predicted the disagreement would bring a confrontation with Parks and perhaps even prompt him to retire earlier than expected. But no such showdown resulted Monday.

After the one-hour board session, Hancock said the issue of Parks' tenure would not come up during the trustees' three-day meeting "if I have anything to do with it."

Parks and Hancock said Parks' tenure was not discussed in the closed-door session with trustee leaders. Asked if he had settled in his mind the issue of retiring early, Parks said, "I wouldn't have an opinion... that I would want to express."

Parks said the trustee leaders did not define any expectations or restric-

tions under which he must now operate. But he acknowledged they did consider asking for a commitment, apology, and reaffirmation from him during the closed-door session. "Some of that was discussed," Parks said.

"There was an acknowledgement of tension and concern, about trust and relationship, that we're going to have to work on," he said.

In the past, Parks has suggested he will not continue as president if restricted to a "figurehead" role. Although some trustees had predicted Parks would be placed under some restrictions, there was no evidence that such an action was taken.

Instead, trustees in open session focused on public disclosure of a letter from trustee Ron Wilson of California to Hancock.

The letter, which was in the hands of news media in early January, was cited by Parker, FMB area director for Europe, in the Jan. 7 press conference as evidence of the trustees'

(See FMB on page 8)

European Baptists offer to discuss future relations

DORFWEIL, Germany (BP) — The European Baptist Federation has offered to discuss the future of cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board but has listed five elements of Christian protocol European Baptists will expect of the FMB or any other mission board in the future.

Bill Hancock, FMB trustee chairman, quickly accepted the offer for a consultation in Europe. FMB delegates to the consultation were to be named during the board's Feb. 10-12 meeting in Richmond, Va., he said.

It will be held at a time and location selected by European Baptists. Although the federation's leaders acknowledge the need of help with missions in Europe, they said they value preserving unity more.

In sending the statement, European Baptist leaders say they are taking a firm stand to assure that problems such as the way the Foreign Mission Board handled the Ruschlikon defunding do not recur. Relations between the board and European Baptists have been strained since the initial

defunding vote in October. Foreign Mission Board trustees reaffirmed the vote in December after meeting with leaders of the federation and the seminary.

Baptist union-designated directors, pastors, and teachers from throughout Western and Eastern Europe approved the statement, indicating a broad base of support among European Baptists for its contents, European leaders said.

Relations with the Foreign Mission Board became a late addition to the agenda for the Jan. 26-29 meeting attended by 50 leaders from 23 European Baptist unions at a retreat center in Dorfweil, near Frankfurt, Germany. The main purpose of the session was to develop a document on the role and purpose of Baptist churches in the new Europe in preparation for a conference of European churches this September in Prague.

Delegates approving the statement included three key Baptist leaders (See EUROPE on page 10)

Drummond will retire June 30

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP) — After four tumultuous years as president of Southeastern Seminary, Lewis Drummond announced Jan. 30 that he will retire at the end of June.

Drummond, 65, made his announcement in a special closed-door meeting of the seminary's trustee executive committee on the school's campus in Wake Forest, N.C. The trustees met privately for about three hours while reporters from national and local media waited outside.

Drummond's announcement ended months of speculation about his tenure, heightened by the Dec. 5 decision by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to place Southeastern on academic probation. The school already faces a financial crisis and dwindling faculty and enrollment.

In light of those challenges, Drummond said in a statement, "it has become increasingly a clear conviction that I must leave the rebuilding to another."

Southwestern, one of six seminaries owned by the Southern Baptist Convention, was the first to come under the control of SBC fundamental-conservatives, who took the reins of the denominational structure in 1979.

Drummond inherited a trustee board anxious to steer the school to a more conservative course, a faculty resistant to that new direction, and accrediting agencies that scrutinized the conflict carefully.

Eventually SACS placed Southeastern on probation, citing excessive involvement of trustees in the administration of the school. The seminary's other accrediting agency, the Association of Theological Schools, will visit Southeastern in February to decide whether or not to place the school on probation or withdraw accreditation.

Trustees of Southeastern must

become less involved in running the school if Southeastern is to retain its accreditation.

That's the ruling from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which placed Southeastern on one-year probation Dec. 5 but did not state its reasons until recently.

As a result of the turmoil, the school's enrollment has dropped from over 1,000 in 1987 to about half of that. A rash of faculty resignations and retirements will also reduce the faculty to about half its 1987 size by next fall, with only seven of the 34 faculty members remaining from 1987.

Meanwhile, trustee chairman Roger Ellsworth refused to blame Drummond for Southeastern's woes.

"Dr. Drummond has labored under extremely difficult circumstances," said Ellsworth, a pastor from Benton, Ill. "We are concerned about the SACS

(See DRUMMOND on page 9)

Cooperative Program takes big upturn

NASHVILLE (BP) — The SBC Cooperative Program recorded a huge 20.99% increase for the month of January 1992 compared to that month a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer.

However, the increase was due, in part, to the 1991 January omission of one of the larger state convention CP checks, SBC business office records

indicate. The SBC business office did receive a check from that state convention in January 1992, which basically accounted for the entire increase. Records for 1991 indicate that check was received too late to be counted in the January totals.

Total for January 1992 was \$12,492,681 compared to \$10,325,464 for the comparable month in 1991.

The SBC budget year-to-date, Oc-

tober through January, also revealed an increase: \$45,965,591 compared to the previous year-to-date of \$44,640,953, or an increase of 2.97%.

"I am gratified by the year-to-date increase of \$1,324,638 for the four-month period, October 1991 through January 1992," Bennett said. "I really believe that Southern Baptists are committed to funding world missions through the Cooperative Program."

Honeycutt appoints Dockery

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — David S. Dockery has been appointed dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary, effective Aug. 1.

The appointment by seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt followed unanimous approval of faculty status for Dockery by the Louisville, Ky., school's trustee executive committee Feb. 4.

In executive session, the executive committee heard a report from the academic personnel committee regarding Southern professors E. Glenn Hinson and Molly T. Marshall. A joint statement issued after the meeting by trustee chairman W. Wayne Allen of Tennessee and Honeycutt said the academic personnel committee had "brought to a conclusion several years of continuing concern related to certain writings of the two professors."

The academic personnel committee reported it had instructed Honeycutt to "warn the professors that if in the future one should teach the positions which someone interpreted them to have expressed, he/she might be in

violation of the Abstract of Principles (the seminary's confessional statement) and thus in jeopardy of dismissal," the statement said. The warning, it noted, has been communicated to each professor.

"We are encouraged by the trustees' careful resolution of this important and sensitive matter," Allen and Honeycutt said. "We are grateful that the action taken satisfies the concerns raised without constituting a punitive action against the two faculty members."

Dockery, general editor for Broadman Press in Nashville, was elected to a tenurable position as associate professor of New Testament interpretation. He will be presented to the full board in April as a candidate for tenure.

Dockery, 39, has been at his current position as editor of the 40-volume New American Commentary since 1990. Before that, he was assistant professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary for two years. He previously taught for four years at Criswell College in Dallas.

1990 HOME MISSION BOARD contributed \$291,624* to missions in MISSISSIPPI



*Latest Figures Available

Supporting missions comes close to home in Mississippi

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA — Supporting missions is a subject that is close to home for Mississippi Southern Baptists.

Of the 4,922 home missionaries across the nation last year, 39 worked in Mississippi. They are examples of cooperative efforts between state conventions and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Many people assume that home missionaries, like foreign missionaries, are supported entirely by the mission board. In reality, only 119 home missionaries receive all of their support from the HMB.

In 1959, the Southern Baptist Convention instructed the Home Mission Board to develop a "single uniform mission program" to prevent duplication of ministries by state conventions and the HMB.

The result is the cooperative agreement, a written document negotiated annually between the HMB and all 37 state conventions and four fellowships.

"The cooperative agreement is the bedrock instrument that provides effective coordination and utilization of the gifts Southern Baptists provide for missions," says Jack Meredith, HMB planning and budgeting coordinator.

Among other things, cooperative agreements outline the financial support for missionaries in each state. In 1992, home missions in Mississippi will be supported 60% by the state convention and 40% by the Home Mission Board.

In states where Southern Baptist work is not as strong as it is in Mississippi, the Home Mission Board provides a greater percentage of support. For example, in New York the ratio of support is 6% from the state convention and 94% from the Home Mission Board.

Additionally, the Home Mission Board provides training conferences, some travel expenses, and fringe benefits such as medical insurance for home missionaries in some states.

State convention leaders identify places where mission work is needed and recruit people to fill those roles. The Home Mission Board becomes involved in training and supervising the missionaries.

Home missionaries serve in one of four categories: appointed, approved, Mission Service Corps, and state administrative personnel.

In 1991, Mississippi had 11 appointed missionaries who are usually long-term or career missionaries. The state had nine approved missionaries who serve for a limited amount of time.

Mission Service Corps is a national program for volunteers who serve one year or more. People who serve at least two years are included in the missionary count. In 1991, Mississippi had 16 Mission Service Corps missionaries and three people on the state convention staff who served as home missionaries.

Zimmerman writes for FMB.

Draper reports on first months as president

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Citing a "wonderful response" as he travels throughout the nation, Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. said he is spending a major portion of this time speaking and meeting with Baptist groups.

"The convention at this time is very fragile," Draper told trustees meeting Feb. 3-5 in Nashville. "I don't try to go in and give a commercial for the Sunday School Board. I try to go in and preach and share my heart."

In another area, Draper called for expanded efforts with language and culture groups.

"I believe the potential to work with ethnic groups is mind boggling, and we're just playing at it," he said. He also cited a need for greater ethnic representation on the trustee board.

Trustees approved business plans to guide the operations of Genevox music publishing, video/audiovisuals, and Church Information System computer hardware and software.

Draper told trustees the board's first quarter financial report had "mixed results." Total revenue from operations was \$48.5 million, 1.3% below budget but 11.3% above last year. "Overall, the financial health of the board is strong," he said.

On the positive side, sales in the 63 Baptist Book Stores topped \$7 million in December, the first time the milestone has been reached in one month. Sunday School literature sales registered a 1.9% increase in unit sales for the first quarter of Breakthrough improvements.

Trustees also adopted resolutions directed to the trustee boards of two other agencies.

To Foreign Mission Board trustees, a resolution proposed by Tommy Taylor, pastor of London Bridge Church in Virginia Beach, Va., notes "difficult and troubled times at the Foreign Mission Board" and "unprecedented opportunities for sharing the gospel worldwide with the demise of communism."

The resolution conveyed "to Chairman Bill Hancock and the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board our heartfelt concern, our continuing prayers and our strong confidence in their Spirit-led leadership at this time."

Trustees also voted to commend to the trustees of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., their support for David Dockery, general editor of The New American Commentary at the board. A day earlier seminary trustees unanimously had approved faculty status for Dockery who then was appointed dean of the school of theology by President Roy L. Honeycutt.

In another report, trustees learned of plans by the Discipleship Training Department to release on an accelerated production track a new line of church-based, support-group materials for use with people suffering from addictive behaviors and codependency.

The first course, "Making Peace with Your Past," will be released in October 1992 by the discipleship training and family ministry departments. "First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program" developed by First Church of Houston, will be published.

Utilizing manuscripts provided at no charge from RAPHA, a Christian-based in-patient hospital program for the treatment of psychiatric and substance abuse problems, the board will develop church-based materials on a variety of other subjects under the imprint Lifeway.

Roy Edgemon, director of the Discipleship Training Department, said the release of 24-30 products in the next 30 months represents an "unprecedented opportunity for ministry and evangelism."

Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School division, said the 1991 Sunday School enrollment gain of 173,303, the largest since 1976, puts Southern Baptists "on the verge of one of the largest breakthroughs we have ever seen."

Lawson writes for BSSB.

How to avoid credit card statement shock

By Charles J. Givens

Credit card debt is one of the greatest challenges you will face in building positive financial goals. I have met thousands of people who have managed to create, quite unintentionally, a credit dilemma: charging when cash is short and hoping the money will be there when the payment comes due; stacking one monthly bill on top of another until nothing is left for necessary expenses.

There are three basic uses of credit. From worst to best they are: perishable purchases such as meals, gas, groceries, airline tickets... worst; depreciable purchases such as automobiles, furniture, clothes... better; and, appreciable purchases such as mutual funds, a home, rental properties, and other investments... best.

Charging perishables is the least desirable and the most misused form

of credit. It's the kind that gets you into credit trouble with nothing to show for it. Payments linger long after the goods or services are gone.

"Financial success requires practiced discipline."

The best use of credit by far is borrowing money at a low rate and investing appreciables at a higher rate of return or in something that will grow in value. In other words, making money work for you.

Financial success requires practiced discipline. Developing discipline is the answer and the following strategy will get you started... painlessly.

Strategy: Deduct a credit card charge in your check register as if you

made the purchase with a check. Count the money gone — it is. Circle the amount of the charged item to differentiate the charge from a purchase by check and enter "C.C." into the check number box to indicate credit card charge.

At the end of the month, the circled items represent everything you charged on all credit cards. The money has already been deducted from your bank balance and is available for payment.

Think of it. No more statement shock. As you deduct each charge, you will become more aware of what you are really spending. The "plastic fantastic" has no mercy. Remember, credit cards cannot control your financial life unless you allow them to.

Givens is a financial planner in Orlando, Fla.



Ecuadoran receives gift of new arm

Orlando Pinargote, 26, a Christian from Portoviejo, Ecuador, (shown above, center) stands with Jerrell Ballard, former missionary to Colombia, and Shirley (Mrs. Granville) Fulton, both of Jackson, in the offices of Ballard Prosthetics. Pinargote lost his arm in a truck accident in 1988. He was in Jackson until Jan. 27 to be fitted for an artificial arm. Fulton first met Pinargote last summer while on a partnership mission to Ecuador. Her church, Lula near Pocahontas, had sent money to meet any need she saw. With it she made the commitment to purchase the prosthesis. Ballard provided his services free of charge (as he has done in the past) to fit and train Pinargote to use his new arm. Pinargote's employer, an architect in Portoviejo, paid transportation costs to the States. The Fultons were Pinargote's hosts in Jackson. (Photo by Shannon T. Simpson)

Two Shelby churches reunite

By Tim Nicholas

Sunday marked a happy occasion as two Baptist churches in Shelby ceased operations.

What made this happy was that the two churches merged into one new one. In the mid-60s Bellevue Baptist Church split off from First Baptist Church, Shelby.

The two churches co-existed in the same delta town for nearly three decades. But a continued population

shift downward, coupled with the economics of the area, got members of both churches to thinking about a merger.

The results of that thinking — and praying — were evident Sunday when the first meeting of the newly-constituted First Bellevue Baptist Church of Shelby held its first day of services.

John Hobbs, deacon chairman of First Church, said people began thinking that they could support one church better than two. A merged church could support, for instance, a choir, said members. Sunday Schools in the 30s at First and in the 20s at Bellevue would be stronger together.

Charles Heinsz, deacon chair at Bellevue, said that after informal talks among members — who all know each other in the small town — the two churches elected committees to discuss the possibility of a merger.

From the first official meetings the first Sunday in January, everything came together within one month for the voting.

Danny Smith was the bivocational pastor of Bellevue, and Lucius Marion, retired longtime pastor at Clarksdale Church, was interim pastor at First Church, Shelby. When time came to elect a pastor, Smith, who is an eligibility worker for the Department of Human Services in Rosedale, was the obvious choice.

And on the merger vote, both congregations approved it unanimously.

But even with the merger agreed on, Marion said there were still two big obstacles: which plant to utilize and what to call the church.

The merger committee agreed to allow Smith and Marion and one outside consultant to make the decision on the facilities. They called in Matt Buckles of the convention board staff who handles church building consulting. Buckles and the two pastors agreed that the facilities of First Church would be the best suited for the two congregations.

Both churches were debt free, which means that the Bellevue property needs to be divested. No serious plans have been made for that yet.

However, the name problem was solved by using both names in the new one, and for the moment all committees and classes have been joined together. Shortly, the new church — which, in addition to all the charter members — will develop a new constitution, bylaws, and vote new committees.

At the first service of the "new" church, after the congregation dedicated it to the Lord, and before Lucius Marion preached on the makings of a true Christian church, Bolivar Director of Missions Odis Henderson commended the congregation both for its vision of a united Baptist ministry in Shelby, and for demonstrating Christian integrity "in reconciliation — the very heartbeat of the Lord."

Says Pastor Smith, "Everybody knew what we were supposed to do, it was just a matter of overcoming legitimate emotional attachments." He adds, "The Lord just put it in everybody's heart."

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Valentine viewpoint

Thank you for Tuesday night, Lord, when we went to the church to look at our picture proofs — ones made for the directory — and the photographer said, "She's a good-looking woman" — and I knew he was talking about my picture like that because he wanted to sell us a whole batch of them, but still I was pleased when my husband said, "Naturally."

Thank you, Lord, for Friday night, and for seeing me safely home through the rain to my own driveway once again. For my husband's spurt of energy that had moved him to vacuum the house and clean the oven, repair the bathtub faucet, and cook the roast for supper.

Thank you for the wet towel on the bathroom floor and the still unmade bed. For the noise of the television going full blast, even it was a western movie. You know I hate all these, Lord, but keep reminding me that they are blessings for I remember how near death's door my husband hovered five years ago, and I remember that you heard my cry and restored him to me.

Thank you for that beautiful mid-January Saturday you gave us, Lord, so beautiful it almost fooled us into thinking it was spring already. Thank you that when I said, "Oh, how wonderful to have a free morning! Only thing missing is a cup of coffee and the newspaper to read in bed," that my husband immediately brought me those missing items.

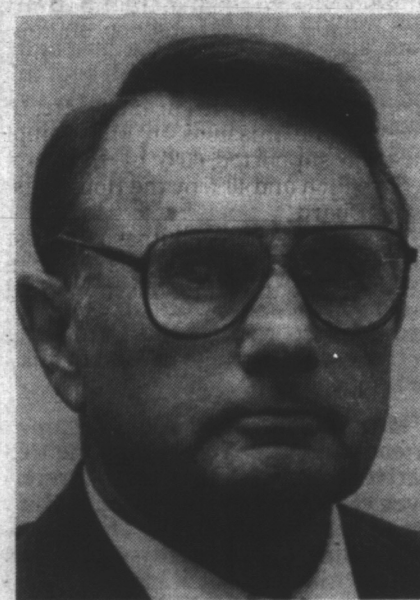
Thank you that we saw the ad in the paper so we could shine up our dream, Lord, while we stood on the deck of a two-story cabin set in ten acres of woods, on a bluff above a blue lake. We knew we couldn't afford it, but it was fun for a little while to pretend. We even looked at mansions alongside the reservoir, mansions that looked like resort hotels. Thank you for giving us an imagination and a sense of humor! Help us to keep our priorities straight. And accept our gratitude for the joys of simple living.

Thank you that when we made our marriage promises so long ago we both meant what we said when we repeated that "for better or worse" and that we have been able to hang in there through days of gladness, sadness — and madness.

Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to say publicly to my husband that I still love him and that I'd like him to continue to be my Valentine.



Chaplain Shamburger to retire, will be missionary to Brazil



Shamburger

backgrounds from other countries. My wife is excited about going, too; she will be teaching conversational English and leading a women's Bible study."

Shamburger went to MBMC in 1963 as an assistant chaplain to Captain J. B. Parker, MBMC's first chaplain. Four years later when Chaplain Parker retired, Chaplain Shamburger became the department's director. During his tenure the department has grown to have three full-time chaplains and four part-time chaplains.

"I feel like MBMC is a second family to me," Shamburger commented. "The people here have been a part of my life for 28 years. It really is a special place with wonderful opportunities to minister. My wife has been a volunteer at MBMC for many years and played the organ during the chapel service here on Sunday mornings. It has been a large part of her life, too."

Originally from Meridian, Shamburger attended Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Prior to his chaplaincy position, he was in the pastorate in Mississippi and Louisiana.

He and his wife Dorothy Talbot Shamburger have a son Gaines and a daughter Tricia. His daughter-in-law Vickie also works at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center where she is acting director of the Outpatient Radiology Department.

"I grew up in a Christian home with my mother and grandmother active in WMU," said Chaplain Shamburger. "Missions has always had a warm place in my heart. We've been thinking and praying about this for several years. Going to the mission field is really a dream come true for us."

Missionary requests:

"Pray for rain in Zimbabwe"

Missionary Ed Moses in telephone conversations from Zimbabwe with Farno Green in Mississippi on Feb. 2, asked that Mississippi Baptists enlist all who will to pray for rain. Near Beitbridge in the rural area of southern Zimbabwe there has been no rain during the usual rainy season from November through January. This is the driest season there in recorded history.

"It has been so dry that no crops could be planted," Moses reported. "Grass has dried up. Cattle are dying. People may begin dying soon. Rivers are dry and at rural schools the water level in wells is so low that schools may have to be closed."

Moses said he was making plans to buy a new truck and a railroad carload of corn and a carload of beans for food distribution. Hunger relief contributions through Mississippi churches help provide funds for this much needed assistance.

Moses' wife, Missy, is from Columbus, Miss.

"There is no drought in the Lord's work in Zimbabwe," Moses added. They recently had 70 baptisms in the Mozambique refugee camp in southeast Zimbabwe. Another 68 people accepted Christ and are going through new church member training. Among that group are two former witch doctors who threw away all of their magic paraphernalia including alligator teeth, and told what the Lord had done for them.

"The former witch doctors present a significant testimony and impact among the refugees just by walking to church now with Bibles under their arms," said Green.

Both Moses and Green have requested prayer for rain in the Beitbridge area of Zimbabwe and for showers of blessings on missionaries, their families, and the Zimbabwe Christians in their efforts to lead others to accept and follow the Lord.

Green went to Zimbabwe on volunteer mission last year. He lives at Ruth.

Carey receives \$131,000 grant

The Student Support Services Program at William Carey College has received continuation funding for the 1991-92 fiscal year in the amount of \$131,000. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education through a competitive application every three years; Carey has received continuous funding since 1974.

The Student Support Services Department provides services designed to aid identified students to complete a post-secondary degree. As academic success is the prime measure of post-secondary success, the Student Support Services Program provides a system utilizing counseling and academic strategies

which have proved successful with the student population served and in overall student retention. The student population served is primarily students who are first generation college students, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and students who are handicapped. The assistance provided by the Student Support Services Program has become an integral part of the Hattiesburg campus as the retention and graduation of many students depend upon the supportive structure that the department is known to deliver.

Brenda Waldrup is the program director. The program serves 160 students.

"These bills need attention"

The following bills are those which have been introduced since the publication of the Baptist Record on Jan. 30. These bills need the attention and response of concerned Christians. Legislators can be contacted by calling 359-3770 or writing them at Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215.

- Abortion: HB 619 would establish that abortion facilities cannot be located within 1,500 feet of a church or school.
- Alcohol: HB 547 would authorize alcohol and beer manufacturers to sell beer on premises. HB 565 would establish the Mississippi Alcohol Boating Safety Act. SB 2434 would provide that certain DUI charges may not be reduced to a lesser charge.
- Family: HB 524 would create in law a 13th ground for divorce based on irretrievable breakdown of marriage. HB 528 would allow release of certain child abuse or neglect information without court order. HB 529 would clarify duty to report suspected child abuse or neglect. HCR 0070 would establish a Special Committee on Socially Disadvantaged Black Males. SB 2420 would revise laws relating to child abuse, juvenile justice, and youth services. SB 2440 would exempt certain organizations from child care facility licensing law.
- Gambling: HB 613 would remove the prohibition on possession of lottery tickets. HB 625 would establish video card machine laws.

— Compiled by Paul Jones, director, and Beth Holmes, consultant, of the Christian Action Commission, MBC.

Wyatt Hunter, former McComb pastor, dies

Wyatt Hunter, pastor emeritus of First Church, McComb, died Feb. 9. He was pastor of the McComb congregation for 30 years, 1938-1968.

Hunter is survived by his wife, Eloise, son Raymond of Gulfport; and daughters Rachel Moore, of Waco, Texas, and Faith Wainwright of Houston, Texas.

Hunter was a native of Marshulaville, and graduated from Mississippi College in 1922.

Southwestern student knows God stops robbers' bullets

By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — In one motion, the robber shoved a handgun to the back of Scott Crenshaw's head and fired twice. A third shot, this one to Crenshaw's back, came seconds later.

It was just what Crenshaw asked for.

"I told them I was a Christian and if I were to die, I would go straight to heaven," the 28-year-old student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary said. "I just kept looking at them. I looked at them straight in the eye and said, 'You'll have to shoot me in the back.'"

That's when Crenshaw turned his back on the two robbers and one of the men fired the gun. "All of a sudden I felt this unreal peace that told me I was not going to die," he said.

The next thing he remembers is the crack of the pistol. Grabbing the back of his head as he fell forward, Crenshaw was confused. He wasn't dead.

"I figured if they were going to kill me I wouldn't even hear the gun go off. I would just see Jesus," he said.

"But they shot me in the back of the head and I knew I wasn't dead. There was blood on my head but I only felt two huge bumps."

Those bumps were the extent of Crenshaw's injuries. The gun was loaded with blanks.

The robbers sped away in Crenshaw's car, leaving him on the street. Crenshaw ran to a nearby house and banged on the door. Inside, two other seminary students were studying for a test. They let Crenshaw in to call Fort Worth police.

"I went outside to wait for the police and I was not angry, mad, or bitter," Crenshaw said. "I can honestly say there was an incredible peace that came over me and I actually started praying for their (robbers') salvation. I actually started crying for their salvation, that God would use what I said to them to minister to them."

It was that opportunity for personal evangelism that led Crenshaw to give the two men a ride from the convenience store where he met them.

He had gone to the store to buy ice

cream for his wife, who is pregnant with the couple's third child.

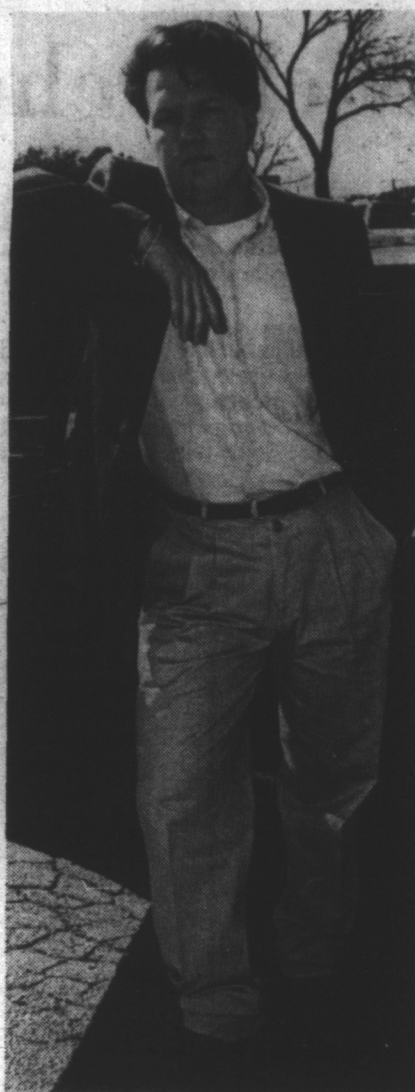
While in the store Crenshaw noticed the two men he described as "clean-cut." When they asked for a ride, Crenshaw saw an opportunity to share his faith in Jesus Christ.

After driving about three miles they asked Crenshaw to pull over so they could get out. That's when the men "flung open the car doors and one of the guys got right in my face with a revolver."

When the robbers demanded his money Crenshaw laughed and told them he was a seminary student and had no money. They ordered him to lie face down on the car seat and the next thing Crenshaw remembers is the sound of the gun.

While Crenshaw admits he has mixed emotions about his brush with death, one emotion remains. "Anytime I think about the incident, I start praying for those guys."

Collins writes for Southwestern Seminary.



RECOVERED — Scott Crenshaw has recovered from his encounter with the two robbers. He has also recovered his stolen car. (Photo by Morris Abernathy, SWBTS photographer)

Stamps reports spiritual awakening among Miskito Baptists

By Guy Henderson

Evangelism is never complete until the evangelized become evangelists, and mission work is not complete until the new converts see the need of sending out missionaries.

Stanley D. Stamps in Honduras writes that the 92 churches and 105 mission congregations voted for a secretary of missions and to strengthen the ethnic missions ministry in this Central American country.

The plan is to aid Honduran Baptists in discovering their mission and purpose and develop mission strategies and methods in church planting. Another objective is for the convention to become self-supporting in eight years. They are already planning for the first missionary couple to go to an area in Honduras where no Baptist work exists.

The largest ethnic minority in Honduras is among the Miskito Indians along the Mosquito Coast in Honduras and Nicaragua. Mission teams from Mississippi have frequently worked in this area. There are now 41 Baptist congregations in this easternmost state.

According to Stamps, there is spiritual awakening among the Miskito Baptists and the people along the Caribbean coast. Stamps also expressed appreciation for Mississippi mission teams who have worked there at one time or another during the past 25 years.

How God can change a wallflower

By Jannie Brown

Many times we use the excuse, "I can't do that." Always perfectly happy to be a wallflower, I married an outgoing man, so we made a good couple. Three years ago, the Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women of our church, Auburn Church in Lee County, began a ministry in the intensive care waiting room of our local hospital. As WMU director, I felt I had to set a good example and sign up to help.

I prayed that God would help me be able to carry out this ministry. Though I never expressed to anyone in the church how this horrified me, talking with perfect strangers frightened me. I prayed more and more. I knew that this ministry was needed as our family had spent many days and nights in the intensive care unit.

Still I found every excuse not to go Monday and Tuesday of my week and Wednesday evening, I asked my husband if he would go with me. I thought this might be God's way of answering my prayer. After prayer meeting, we picked up some snacks and went to the hospital. The church had provided money for snacks which the BYW and BW would deliver to intensive care on our visits. My son even volunteered to go, so I thought, "I have my support group with me." I still prayed that God would give me the courage to visit with these families.

I went to meet the families and explain our ministry. Guess what! I didn't need that support group. God had answered those prayers, but in his

time. He knew that I wouldn't need that extra courage until I was with those families and that's when he showed me that I could face those families and share with them.

Of the families, we spent more time with one, the Thompsons, than the others. She was from out of town and her husband had suffered a heart attack; the doctors still didn't think he would make it. I kept in touch with this woman and her family during their stay there. After the husband was discharged later, we still kept in touch by phone or mail. Neither of us could then understand why it was important that we keep that contact.

A month or so later, she called and said she just had to talk. We cried over the phone. Her husband was slowly dying; he was losing weight and becoming unresponsive. Next day, a Sunday, Allen, my husband, and I drove to Eupora after church to visit with them. I knew she needed to talk to someone in person.

Mr. Thompson and Allen became friends and talked from the time we arrived until we left. Mr. Thompson even came to the table and ate. This was something new. Mrs. Thompson was elated that someone had been able to bring him out of his unresponsiveness, even for a little while.

Later Mrs. Thompson called to say they had been transferred to the hospital in Tupelo, to the cancer floor. I checked on them immediately, and in following days, I saw him go down more each day. One Saturday morning, she asked if I could come stay

with her, as he was getting worse by the hour. I stayed until her family arrived. Late that afternoon, I called and all of her family had left except her 12-year-old daughter. She said her husband's fever was 103 and his blood pressure was dropping.

Allen and I went back to the hospital, prepared to stay as long as necessary. The doctor had told them he probably would not live through the night.

About 10:30, some of the family returned, but something told me I didn't need to leave yet. About 12:30, Mr. Thompson died. I knew then why it was important that I stay. I was needed to make telephone calls to family and friends back in Eupora. This was the first time I had ever witnessed a person's death.

Since Mr. Thompson's death, God has allowed me to minister to some friends of ours whose parents also had cancer. If you had told me three years ago that I would be able to meet strangers and minister to them in this way, I would have said you don't know what you're talking about.

I never use the excuse anymore, for God has shown me I can't, but with his help all things are possible. With God, even wallflowers can be used to minister if we'll allow him to work through us. I still have to ask for courage and strength when my week comes around, but he's never failed to give it to me and show me how he can use experiences in my life to help those who are there. This wallflower now can meet strangers and even carry on a conversation.

New Age: "serious . . . errors"

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — New Age movements are among the "most serious theological errors Christianity has ever faced," claims an interfaith witness specialist.

The problem is compounded as most Southern Baptists "don't want to bother with something if they don't agree with it," says Maurice Smith, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board interfaith witness department. "That attitude is going to kill us."

Various New Age movements have been in the United States since the 1960s, Smith said, but it was 1984 before an article appeared in a Southern Baptist publication about the belief system.

"New Age" is an informal name for a variety of groups, Smith says.

New Age adherents have no written statement of faith, though their beliefs are closely tied to Eastern religions such as Hinduism and Buddhism.

Smith describes New Age as an "alternative world view." One of its characteristics is the belief that "all is one" — everything from people to water to energy are a unitary whole.

That belief leads to the next common New Age view that everything, including each individual, is god.

"If I had to put my finger on one reason New Age is popular, it is the belief that you are god," Smith says. When a person believes he is god, he can determine what is right and wrong.

"If you can ritualize your lusts, you have the ultimate religion," Smith says. "New Age is the ultimate do-it-yourself religious system."

People involved in New Age movements are likely to be interested in Christianity because they believe all religions are true. The diversity of religions is explained as people taking different paths to find the god within themselves.

Yet New Age adherents reject religious claims that are exclusive.

For example, they deny that Jesus is the only way to salvation and the Bible is authoritative Scripture.

The January 1993 Discipleship Training material produced by the Sunday School Board will include a study of New Age movements, Smith says. Southern Baptists wanting more information on New Age movements can contact Smith or the interfaith witness coordinator in their state convention office.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

Missionary prayer lists ask for protection, penetrating, perseverance

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Since the advent of Southern Baptist foreign missions, countless Southern Baptists have received specific prayer requests directly from missionaries.

"PrayerGram," monthly newsletter of the Foreign Mission Board, is made up almost entirely of such requests as submitted through a mission prayer

chairman. Missionary newsletters also carry prayer requests from the field to Southern Baptists. Indeed, these newsletters provide much of the material that appears in the "Support with prayer" and the "Epistles" sections that regularly appear in The Commission, the board's monthly journal.

Missionary Roger Hesch, as an ex-

ample, recently wrote in a newsletter: "As we return to Uganda, you can help us through prayer."

"The following alliteration might help you to better know how to pray for us:

— "Protection . . . from illnesses such as malaria, cholera, amoebic stomach attacks, etc.; from road accidents, violence, and robberies; and

from frustrations and discouragements.

— "Penetration . . . as we work to see the church started in new areas, as we seek to see the gospel preached among the lost, as we walk with new believers and church leaders in their growth in Christ.

— "Perseverance . . . that our love, joy, peace, patience, etc., would be

'tough' and enduring, that our attitudes would stay positive, that we would always be able to laugh at ourselves and with our friends.

"Now, by all means, allow God to expand your prayers for us beyond these areas, but use these things as a guide if you don't know how to pray for us on any given day."

alongside



Thursday
February 13, 1992

This Issue of alongside is a Supplement

to the BAPTIST RECORD, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

"a, s, d, f...j, l, k, j"



by
Marjean Patterson
executive director-
treasurer
Mississippi WMU

Seems as if it were only yesterday when I heard the soft voice of Mrs. Murrell, my high school business teacher, reminding us of the names and positions of the home keys on our typewriters. It's always been hard for me to believe that there are people in America who actually cannot type! Guess that's because typing has become such a great part of my everyday life.

Imagine my great frustration a few years ago when I went to ask permission to purchase a new typewriter, simply because my old one was ready for the junk pile. He reluctantly approved my request, saying in a very positive tone of voice, "Marjean, now you do know, don't you, that the typewriter is on its way out?" I said "Yes" in order to get my new typewriter but I couldn't actually believe what he had said.

During recent months I have become the proud owner of a computer complete with a monitor with a colored screen and a printer. My old typewriter at home has been thrown away and I'm in the process of really making an effort to become familiar with this wonderful piece of equipment. When I discovered where Word Processing is located in my computer, I very tentatively began to put some words in the machine, which instantaneously appeared on the monitor. Not having anything in particular to write, I composed a little story and, when completed, I punched the button which would activate the printer and - Shazam, there came my little story out of the "mouth" of that printer.

Now I've also found that there are so many other wonderful features to this computer - why, I can make graphs and charts and pictures and on and on! What an age in which to be alive!

As I use the FAX machine at the Baptist Building and the computer at the office and my own at home, I find myself sort of wishing that I might be eighteen years old again, just starting out in a job or in college. I reflect over all the changes which have transpired during my lifetime and my head spins. It's unbelievable.

Change is a desirable, necessary and inevitable part of life, isn't it? Change is very much a part of Woman's Missionary Union. ROYAL SERVICE, our flagship magazine, is going to take on a new look in a few months; exciting advertisements urging women to participate in BYW or Baptist Women will be coming out in some of our secular magazines this spring; new and different efforts are being made to tell the great story of missions throughout the land; and much thought and prayer are being

continued inside

dinner will be served . . .
at annual meeting



Among the unusual features of the Annual Meeting of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union will be Monday night dinner. It will be prepared and served by the Disaster Relief Van crew.

First Baptist Church, Clinton, is host church March 16 and 17, beginning at 2 p.m. Monday and ending at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The theme is the year's emphasis for WMU, Called and Accountable. Monday afternoon home missions will be emphasized; Monday evening will feature state missions; Tuesday morning will spotlight family missions; Tuesday afternoon will accent foreign missions.

Musicians will be Mary Simmons of New Orleans, former missionary, and Melinda and Russell Kyzar, missionaries in Costa Rica.

Members of Baptist Nursing Fellowship will go to the Van to receive their food and gather in Room 102-A in the Old Fellowship Hall to eat together and to hear missionary nurse Myrtice Owens. Prospective members of BNF are invited to this event.



Myrtice Owens

coed youth missions
convention

Kyle and Susan Matthews will be musicians, vocal and instrumental, at the Coed Youth Missions Convention at Mississippi College in Clinton, April 10-11, beginning Friday night at 7:00 p.m. and closing Saturday at 3:30 p.m. Kyle's musical training includes classical and jazz piano, voice and composition, and his experiences range from recitals to musical theater and coffeehouse concerts. He served three summers in the Centrifuge Youth Camp program. He has published music, albums, and a musical, "Show Me the Road," which has been performed recently in Atlanta.



Kyle and Susan Matthews

Susan is a music therapist with training in both piano and vocal performance, and her experiences range from folk ensembles to opera workshops. A special interest in her work with adolescents is heightening the awareness of possible associations between the use of music and emotional problems or chemical dependency as part of mental health.

Susan and Kyle were married in April, 1990. They presently travel the country performing at universities, conferences and youth events.

when you think of Boaz...
what comes to mind?



Carolyn Miller,
President, WMU, SBC

When most women think of Boaz, it's followed by Alabama, and by visions of blocks and blocks of outlet stores, and trunks full of purchases, and minds full of explanations for husbands on arrival at home.

Now, though, WMU folks are thinking of something else good that has come out of Boaz, Alabama—Carolyn Miller, elected national WMU president last June. Carolyn now lives in Huntsville. For Carolyn this has been simply another busy year in WMU and other mission activities; what makes this one different is the level of her service. She has come up through the ranks of WMU service, filling offices on church, associational, and state levels. Now her leadership is on the national level. Her husband, Jerry, is very pleased with this opportunity for her and is very supportive.

Just for fun, alongside called and talked to Carolyn. She answered her phone quickly and cheerily. I told her I was writing an article about her - for Mississippi WMU and that I had all the things like her growing up in Alabama, being a graduate of Auburn, being the mother of three grown children, being Melanie's grandmother, her WMU work record (volunteer, that is), and about her sister, Gwen Reece, who has 32 years of missionary service in Nigeria. Now, we wanted a few

personal details, like your favorite color.

Carolyn: Red (most enthusiastically!)

alongside: Favorite snack food?

Carolyn: Pretzels. I love pretzels. (Writer's note: Now we know we'll have to have pretzels instead of fruit in Carolyn's room when she comes to our Annual Meeting, March 16-17, at First Baptist, Clinton.)

alongside: Hobbies?

Carolyn: Gardening, reading, travel.

alongside: If you had a whole day to do anything you wanted to, what would it be?

Carolyn: Oh, I expect I would get in the car and go antiquing. That's one of my favorite things to do.

alongside: Any special antiques?

Carolyn: Small items. Nothing big. I don't furnish my house with antiques. I just love going and looking even if I don't buy anything. Just little things - maybe junk would be a better word.

alongside: Going junking instead of antiquing, maybe? Any special word for Mississippi WMU?

Carolyn: Tell them I'm looking forward to seeing them in March and to helping them whet their appetites as they hear missionaries. I hope they will be inspired to help the ladies back home feel inspired toward bigger and better things in the future.

Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering

1992 Allocations

Scholarships:	
Seminaries	\$ 6,000
Overseas	1,500
MS Missionary Appointees	5,000
MK Christmas Love Gifts	3,000
Aged Ministers/Widows	4,000
WMU New Work Areas:	
National WMU Headquarters, USSR	1,000
Women's Work, Zimbabwe	1,000
Nevada	1,000
Montana Fellowship	1,000
Dakotas Fellowship	1,000
Colorado	1,000
Illinois	1,000
MS Seamen's Centers (3)	
Pascagoula (2)	1,800
Gulfport	900
Professional Staff Training	1,000
Camp Garaywa	15,000
Area Work	12,800
Promotional Materials	7,000
TOTAL	\$ 65,000

where have we gone?

When membership declines three years in a row after four years of increase, we need to look around. What's happening?

is it reporting?

Here in my temporary office where I am helping Marjean in the transition since Betty Smith's retirement (and loving it, by the way - I have missed y'all!) one of the things we're concerned about is how true the picture is.

Our lone source of official statistics is the annual church letter to the association. We can't use any other source. Your church's part in statistical Baptist history is made from this letter when the business office in the Baptist Building sends your letter to Nashville where it is entered into SBC data, the official source of SBC statistics. And, that's where Mississippi WMU learns we have declined three years in a row.

So, our first thought (and maybe a hope!) is that reporting through that church letter may be inconsistent, and we urge you to keep good WMU records through the year and report them accurately in the fall. That urging brings up another thought. Is the WMU reporting system in place in your organizations? If you need to develop a better reporting system than we have, go to it! And let us know about it. We might tell Birmingham about it. The important thing is that you give us on the 1992 church letter an accurate report, not an estimate or a guesstimate, but a true picture of your WMU. Maybe the whole picture is better than the church letters are showing.

or, are there other things?

Have some of us really left? For instance, I know one large city church where Acteens could not be scheduled into the Wednesday activities as GA is, so the girls who promoted to Acteens are lost, as was an Acteens organization.

We'd like to hear from you. Maybe we can help. If we can't help your enrollment, maybe we can help your feelings by letting you know we care.

but on the other hand,

We had 15 churches reporting with Standard WMU and 76 churches reporting with Distinguished WMU. We had 10 associations reporting with Standard WMU and 18 associations reporting with Distinguished WMU. Not too bad...

Those numbers are delightful when you look at the WMU Achievement Guide and see all the work involved in being Standard and the additional work to be Distinguished. The numbers show how much excellent work is being done in WMU. We're tickled with that.

Would many of you agree with me that a large part of meeting Standard or Distinguished lies in using the Achievement Guide as a plan of work and in checking progress on it at every council meeting on every level? I asked some of you at a recent meeting to tell me how you used the Achievement Guide and what you felt had helped you to reach recognition level. You said that you use the Achievement Guide to plan your work, that each officer knows which points are her responsibility, that you checked on the Guide at every council meeting, and that you could see immediately what you lacked and where you needed improvement. This should be helpful to every one of you who may feel discouraged. If you haven't tried this strategy, it would surely be worth a try.

The bottom line is, as usual, the return on your investment. In missions education through WMU, the return manifests itself in the lives of preschoolers, girls and women. That's hard to measure; however, since the denomination gave the task of missions education to Brotherhood and WMU, we'll do our best. Thank you for your part. Stay with it, do it well, and enjoy it. Some of those ladies in Frostproof, Florida lived long enough to see the return of their investment in Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler. Some of those ladies in Northside Park Baptist Church in Atlanta lived long enough to see the return on their investment in Marjean Patterson. Some of the ladies where you grew through WMU have lived long enough to see the return on their investment in your life. Chances are, you'll live - if you haven't already - long enough to see the return on your investment. I have, and it's fun. It was fun through the years, to express to ladies who invested in me, an appreciation for their investment, through much of which I giggled and wiggled, and they could have thrown up their hands and quit. I'm glad they didn't, and I won't either.

Wilda Fancher

we asked Dr. Causey to write

Those of us who wear glasses have discovered that from time to time the prescription needs changing. The longer it has been since the last eye exam, the more likely it is that the patient needs new glasses. This is not because the objects around us have changed, but because of some change within ourselves.

The lesson may also apply to our own understanding of the will of God. In the beginning religious movements are sharply directed to accomplish a single purpose. With the passing of time there are other purposes that begin to crowd in upon the major one. The time comes for a new examination. The new examination reveals the same as the old: our need to focus on missions. The commitment which Baptists have to missions is basic to why we began to cooperate with each other to form associations, state conventions, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

We should concern ourselves with this focus. Refocusing can eliminate the fuzziness and sharpen our ability to see our objective. Did Jesus really say "go ye into all the world and make disciples..."? Did He really say "even as the Father hath sent me, so send I you"? Did He really say we ought to be His witnesses? If these things were basic to the teachings of our Lord and we are truly committed to him, then a clear focus will burden us to follow these commands.

Once we have seen again the goal of His commands, an appropriate response calls for a rededication of our lives. We must return to the Lord once again to reaffirm our own commitment to his command and in doing so we find fulfillment and meaning for our lives. This begins, of course, with a rededication to the Lord Himself... not merely some command. Out of this comes a new will-

ingness to set our hearts upon that which was the intention of His own heart. Once we become obedient to His command and our hearts are rededicated to His purpose, we become channels of God's love. We cannot pool His love for our own benefit. That becomes self seeking instead of Christ's kind of love. Christ's kind of love causes us to become channels and not reservoirs. That love flowing through us must find others who do not know of that love and make certain, before their lives are wasted, that they too discover that God loves them.

Then comes the practical part. We must assert our energies to do these things in practical ways. "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." "Faith without works is dead." These insights and many others cause us to develop practical strategies for trying to reach the world for Jesus. This is

missions! From the food closet in the local church, to the missionary doctor in a distant land, with all kinds of tasks in-between, the strategy develops. Southern Baptists have developed these strategies which have finally circled the globe in thousands of practical ways.

Strong in the hand of God has been the mighty movement among Southern Baptist women in devoting themselves to prayer, the raising of money, and other ways of giving strong emphasis to this great missionary enterprise. Southern Baptist women, both young and old, and past and present, are to be congratulated for being an integral part of the launching of this great missionary enterprise—the greatest in the history of the world. All the rest of us do well to emulate their devotion.

It would be my prayer that all of us, not just the ladies, would refocus our attention upon the commands of our Lord

and rededicate our lives to that same purpose. And then reassert ourselves with all the creativeness that God will give us to winning the world for Him.

There is always the temptation to do something else. And surely no one would argue that many of these other things are good. But the one who believes that the most important thing is winning the world to Christ will surely find strong support in the Word of God.

Could we all, at the beginning of 1992, reexamine ourselves and get an updated prescription that will cause us to be more effective? And help us to shake loose from misconceptions that would deter us from God's great purpose?

Ladies, keep on helping us, in the local churches, and in the denomination, to clearly see that winning the world to saving faith in Jesus is our highest priority.

and, speaking of not quitting...

Charles and Mary Elizabeth Ray retired in 1991 from their career as missionary associates, which began after many years in the pastorate. After only a year of retirement from Tokyo, Japan, they are scheduled to leave February 20 to go to China with the Foreign Mission Board's Cooperative Services International. They will teach English and may be assigned other classes at the China University of Mining and Technology in Xuzhou. Witnessing will be done through personal relationships with students and faculty. Their term of service is expected to be 18 months.

Gordon Shamburger retires this month from 28 years in the chaplaincy at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, coming to that position from the pastoral ministry. For 24 years he served as director of the chaplaincy work at the Center. Dorothy, his wife, retired in 1986 after 27 years of teaching in Jackson Public Schools. She is very active in the volunteer program at the Center. Her ministry is with families of patients having heart surgery. The Shamburgers will leave in early spring to go to Brazilia, Brazil, where he will be pastor for one year of the International Baptist Church. This church ministers to foreign diplomats and their families, foreign business men and their families, school teachers brought in from abroad, Brazilian nationals with international backgrounds, and missionaries working with Wycliffe translators.

Mississippi is home to the oldest living Southern Baptist missionary

Floy Wright went to Japan in 1922 to meet Robert Jacob and become his wife and to go with him to China to join him in his missionary life. They worked in the area where Lottie Moon had worked, arriving there only 12 years after her death. Bertha Smith was there and had arranged for sedan chairs to transport the newly-weds while school children lined the street; however, the rains came and those plans had to be cancelled. Robert Jacob was an educator. Floy Jacob majored on her responsibilities in the Christian home, feeling its importance along with the importance of letting the Chinese people see a Christian home in action. Mrs. Jacob was 101 years old on January 18, and she still makes her own decisions, like how much to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. She has great long-term memory, being able to talk about the great Shandong (Shantung) revival, probably the only person who can do that. She will never quit, either, because she decided to provide for several special Baptist efforts in her will. Each of her four daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, and Lydia is actively at work in her own church missions work. Elizabeth will leave this month to work two years in Spain as secretary to a man in a position similar to our director of associational missions, who works with 120 churches. Our real gratitude to Mrs. Jacob, who helps us to see how to grow older gracefully.

someone new...and something new



Someone New's real name is Helen Price, and the something new is her position - Summer Camp Director.

The growing success of the summer camping program at Garaywa has, for several years, increased the work load of the GA/Mission Friends consultant and led to the creation of this position.

Helen's husband, Jackie, is finance manager at Edgewood Mazda in McComb and is part-time music director at Oakvale Baptist Church in Lawrence County. They have two daughters, Kayla, in second grade, and Gretchen in seventh grade. Helen and the girls will live at Garaywa during the summer with a bit of commuting going on both ways, between Garaywa and their home in Summit.

Helen, a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi, is a part-time counselor in North Pike Public Schools and is a graduate student at Mississippi College. She has CPR and First Aid Certification, is a certified umpire for amateur softball and for high school softball.

Helen will recruit counselors for Garaywa. Any girl who has completed her freshman year in college and is interested may write or call Helen at the WMU office. She will plan, promote, implement, and evaluate summer camping. Camp information materials have been mailed to church GA directors and WMU directors. Registration for camp is by mail only and will be accepted

BNF Getaway Day

On April 11, at First Baptist Church, Louisville, members of Baptist Nursing Fellowship will gather for a Getaway Day, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and closing at 3:30 p.m.

This day, planned to provide spiritual renewal, will identify avenues of service and will involve participants in relaxation with other Christian nurses. Prospective members of Baptist Nursing Fellowship are encouraged to attend.

Nurses included in the program guests are Dora Harbin, RN, missionary on furlough from Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Carrie Carlson, M.S., RN, marriage and family therapist with the counseling/family ministry, First Baptist Church, Jackson, who will share in their fields of expertise.

Pat Siddon, minister of music at Arcola Baptist Church, will provide music.

For more details, contact the WMU office, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205, or phone 968-3800.

"a,s,d,f...;l,k,j" from front page
given to enlistment, deepening the spiritual life, and learning about some of what God is doing throughout His world today.

We cannot be apprehensive about change, can we? After all, if we do not accommodate necessary changes into our lives, we're relegated to living in the past.

I just wonder how Mrs. Murrell would feel about all the changes which have come in business machines over the years? Somehow I believe in my heart that she would jump right in there to learn word processing and all the other wonderful facets of the computer. How 'bout you?

Special Note

Offering at the Annual Meeting of Mississippi WMU will be sent to the Second Century Fund.

Please encourage your ladies to come prepared to give generously. Mississippi WMU is 8th in gifts to the Fund at \$8,631.54.



Baptist Nursing Fellowship sponsors student nurses event

Student nurses in colleges in the southern part of the state are invited to a special event at the Baptist Student Union at University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg, from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on March 19. Topics which will be considered are a nurse's spiritual development, opportunities for medical missions involvement, and issues and answers for Christian nurses in the 90's. Program personnel include Dr. Graham Hales, USM campus chaplain; Kaye Wilson of the nursing faculty at Mississippi College; Dr. Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Deadline for registration is March 17. A registration fee of \$2.00 per person should be mailed to BNF Student Nurse Event (WMU), P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Make checks payable to: Woman's Missionary Union, which is the sponsoring organization of Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

someone still here...something new



Ashley McCaleb has been here since May, 1983. Her responsibilities have always included Baptist Women work, with other assignments changing from time to time to include BYW, leadership training and Baptist Nursing Fellowship. BNF is our something new under Ashley's leadership.

WMU, SBC sponsors BNF, so state WMU offices have joined in this effort. Mississippi's first BNF meeting was January 25, 1986. There were 16 attending. Today

we have 140 members with four active chapters in Louisville, Jackson, Ecu, and Carrollton. A fifth, Meridian, is ready to organize. June Whitlow, associate executive director, WMU, SBC, uses Mississippi as a role model as the strongest state BNF program.

Ashley's present responsibilities include leadership of Baptist Women, BYW, and volunteer mission trips.

Jimmy, Ashley's husband, has recently become bi-vocational contract consultant in the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and has also become minister of music and senior adult activities at Day Star Baptist at Florence.

Ashley loves to write, to read, and to travel, especially missions trips. A special trip was to Peru where she, with Karl and Peggy Wallace, was involved in leadership training for more than 600 people. WMU, SBC has enjoyed the gift of Ashley's leadership for many years. At present she is serving as Chairman of the Dated Plan Work Group, 1995-96. This group leads in formulating the entire WMU plan of work for that year.

Acteens Mini-Camps

June 3-5, Camp Garaywa
Wednesday, 1 p.m. - Friday, 12:30 p.m.

June 15-17, Central Hills
Monday, 10 a.m. - Wednesday, 11 a.m.

Theme: Will you be the one ...
neighborhood needs, neighborhood deeds
Cost: \$35.00

After April 1, mail reservations to
WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

another someone still here... something new



Jan Cossitt served as interim Acteens consultant for a year before making it permanent. Since December, 1986 she has been leading Acteens and the adults who work with Acteens, coming from 10 valuable years of experience in youth work in the local church at Morrison Heights, Clinton.

It comes as no surprise to anybody that Jan is a member of Clowns of America, nor that she was voted Outstanding Young Religious Leader by Clinton Jaycees. Her fun and mischief side, shown in activities like directing a washboard band, is backed by an equally serious and hard-working side. Her responsibilities in the Baptist Building include working with youth activities involving partnership with other departments.

Jan, too, is involved by WMU, SBC in think tanks, planning meetings, and youth activities. She recently completed being a part of a Dated Plan Work Group.

Jan is Acteens and Campus BYW consultant. The something new Jan's involved in for us includes a Coed Youth Missions Conference at Clinton, April 10-11, Acteens Mini-Camps at Garaywa this summer, and sharing responsibility with Ashley for a Women's Conference October 9-10.

Jan's a member of First Baptist, Jackson, where she teaches a singles class.

associational officers retreat

April 24-25, Camp Garaywa

Friday

6:00	Thank-you banquet, featuring Farrell Blankenship
7:30 - 8:15	Conferences:
	How to Pray 'Wilda Fancher
	How to Relate Helen Price
	How to Witness James Fancher
8:15 - 8:30	Break
8:30 - 9:15	Repeat of conferences
9:30 - 10:15	Fellowship
10:15	Area prayer meetings

Saturday

7:30	Breakfast
8:15 - 9:45	Lead On Dell Scoper Advanced Leadership Training
9:45 - 10:00	Break
10:00 - 12:30	Age-level conferences
12:30	Lunch and travel home

Mississippi WMU Calendar

MARCH

- 1-8 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering; theme: Missions: Reaching People, Growing Churches.
- 14 GA Day at Central Hills, Central Hills Retreat, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 16-17 WMU Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, Clinton, Monday 2 p.m. - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.
- 27-28 5th and 6th Grade GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, Friday, 4 p.m. - Saturday, 3 p.m.
- 28 GA Day at Garaywa, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

APRIL

- 10-11 Youth Missions Convention, Mississippi College, Clinton, Friday, 7 p.m. - Saturday, 4 p.m.
Queens Banquet, 5 p.m., Friday
- 24-25 Associational WMU Officers Training, Garaywa, Friday, 5 p.m. - Saturday, 12:30

MAY

- 12 Associational Officers Interpretation Meeting, Alta Woods Church, Jackson, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

beyond the stained glass window

Wilda Fancher

Every once in a while I say to myself, If I were writing a column now, I would write about that. So, here goes with one of those thoughts. The other day I was sitting in the car, waiting to pick up a grandchild. I looked at the yards around the neighborhood. In one yard I noticed two trees. One was real big and tall, evidently a very old tree. The other was smaller and did not have nearly the height of the other one. They were two different kinds of trees, and both of them should have been able to grow up to be the very best of its species. But the person who planted the smaller of the two trees had planted it too close to the other, probably not realizing that the new tree would grow as big as it did.

The problem was that, as you looked at the trees, each of them had been misshapened by the other, something that could have been avoided by allowing each of them what it needed to grow properly. And one thing absolutely necessary to growth is space or room. I remember when there would not be enough room in my shoes for my growing feet.

There's room for all of us to grow. There is room for all the leadership we can muster in WMU. One mark of a good leader is that she grows her some leaders out of her followers. No one of us leaders needs to be part of misshaping any other leader or member. There's room for all of us, and for more of us. Each one being in the place where we can serve and grow, each being, in the eyes of our followers, the best of our species, Christian women enjoying being a part of strengthening the missions base which is WMU's divine imperative.

alongside
published by Mississippi WMU Department
Marjean Patterson.....executive director-treasurer
Ashley McCaleb.....Baptist Women/BYW consultant
Jan Cossitt.....Campus BYW/Acteens consultant
Helen Price.....camp director
Sandy Black.....secretary
Brenda Quattlebaum.....secretary
Cindy Coon.....secretary to director
Wilda Fancher.....editor, pro tem



Refresh your memory on "Accountable For One" (Pages 8 and 9 in current WMU Yearbook) and be busy on this. If you, personally, have not selected the one for

whom you will feel accountable, now is the time. Look around - in your clubs, at your work, in civic activities - and find a friend whose abilities could be used in WMU. Become a friend. Share with her in both sad and good times, invite her to the proper WMU organization. Be careful not to nag. Let WMU be a casual, important part of your conversation. When there is a good activity planned, invite her. If you've had no success in having her accept an invitation to a regular meeting. Keep a current Royal Service available. Point out special articles. Involve her in mission action projects. But, especially, be her friend. It may take years to enlist her in WMU, but you'll be a winner all the years you are her friend. So will she.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO "GIFT" YOUR COPY OF THE GIFTED WOMAN I AM ?

When the Earl Kellys were in the Philippines at the Baptist seminary in Baguio, Marjorie did extensive course work on spiritual gifts with young women there, and used the material in other areas of the Islands; however, her books were not available for this study. Marjorie would like very much for those of you who have finished with the book and would like a good home for it, to send it to her at 5316 Red Fox Road, Jackson, MS 39211, and she will get it to a grateful user.

'tis more blessed to give . . .

1991 Totals

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	\$1,994,352.12
Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering	\$68,412.26
Goal was \$63,000	
Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions	\$646,311.72
Goal was \$645,000	
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	\$3,446,013.00
June 1 - January 29	
(The year for this offering is June 1 - May 31.)	

A CALL FOR NURSES FROM BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP

How would you like a week's vacation . . . with 250 girls? or with 170 boys?

Call Ashley McCaleb at 968-3800, extension 3924, or write her at P.O. Box 530, WMU, Jackson, MS 39205, if you would like to give a week or more of your summer to be Camp Nurse at GA or Acteens Camp at Garaywa in Clinton or at RA Camp at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko. There are 17 openings.

Inerrancy

"Must not separate inspiration, interpretation too much"

By William H. Stephens
(Part three of a three-part series)

NASHVILLE — The claim often has been heard that we can differ on interpretation as long as we begin with a high view of Scripture.

This assertion is appropriate, yet we must not separate inspiration and interpretation too much. We can tell fairly quickly by reading one's interpretations of Scripture what view one holds about inspiration.

Inspiration and interpretation are discussed in *The Doctrine of the Bi-*

ble by David Dockery published by the Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department for the 1992 Baptist Doctrine Study emphasis.

One of the very important issues in inspiration is how an interpreter relates general and special revelation. General revelation is that wide range of revelation which God gives to all humankind through nature, persons,

and history. Special revelation is God's direct revelation of himself. He spoke to and through prophets and others; he interacted with historical events; he came finally in Jesus Christ. Scripture contains the record of these revealing acts in such a way that Scripture itself reveals God.

Sometimes general revelation and special revelation appear to be in conflict. Which has precedence? The most obvious illustration of this issue is Genesis 1.

There are two essential different approaches to interpreting this chapter. Some believe "day" can only refer to a literal 24-hour period; some believe "day" must indicate a longer time. Those who hold to the first view feel that proper Bible study requires first a thorough evaluation of the text before any data from science is considered. Only after we determine the clearest meaning of the text (special revelation), and do so independently, do we draw from other fields of knowledge (general revelation). In case of conflict, the claim of science or any other field of knowledge is rejected as untrue. General revelation cannot contradict special revelation, which always takes precedence.

Those who hold to the second view quote the phrase, "Truth never contradicts truth." These interpreters believe that the Bible must be given precedence over other fields of knowledge, since it is special revelation. However, if the interpreter is con-

vinced that science (in this case) has established truth beyond reasonable doubt, then the dictum, "Truth never contradicts truth," comes into play.

Since the Bible is true, and the interpreter is convinced that certain claims of science are true, he or she seeks to reconcile the two. This process shapes the interpretation that the universe is of an extreme age and that "day" must refer to a long period. God, the interpreter insists, has revealed himself in both general and special revelation and both must be considered. Another example of this process is seen in Christians changing their interpretation of texts which previously appeared to support slavery.

Yet another approach to Scripture which reflects one's stance is whether we manipulate Scripture or seek as best we can to determine its true meaning. For example, some conservatives are trying to bring typology back as a valid interpretation method. Typology is seeing in one person or event in the Old Testament a type of another. For example, David is seen as a type of Christ and Goliath a type of Satan. Nothing in the biblical text gives any hint that such a comparison should be made. When typology is used, we can make the Bible say just about whatever we want it to say. In such a process, the human mind places itself over Scripture, for we impose on Scripture our own thoughts.

William Tyndale was one of the first during the Reformation to point out that this type of interpretation was what made possible the errors of Roman Catholicism.

The issue is whether a person truly bows to Scripture or sets his or her mind over it in some manner. The liberal does this often, deciding what part of Scripture is God's Word and what is not. But inerrantists, too, are prone to error from another direction.

Sometimes we are so convinced about an issue that we cast about in Scripture to find texts which support our view. We fail the inerrancy test if we manipulate Scripture. This process sets the human mind as the authority and makes Scripture conform to our view.

Inerrancy presupposes that God's Word is objective truth. That is, it means what it means, whether we like it or not, accept or reject it, believe or disbelieve it, or read our meanings into it.

The Bible is the Word — the speaking — of God to us. Inerrancy means that we come to God's Word humbly, with a certain trembling respect, submissive to it and the Holy Spirit's teaching, to learn "What wilt Thou have me to do?"

Stephens is senior curriculum development coordinator for the Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department which sponsors the annual Baptist Doctrine Study emphasis.

Mississippi missionary sees needs Annie Armstrong giving could meet

JACKSON, Miss. — James Booth has needs only Southern Baptists can meet.

For Booth, a Southern Baptist home missionary who works in deaf ministries in Jackson, many of those needs could be met with a higher level of giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

"More gifts through the Annie Armstrong offering would permit us to provide some additional conferences statewide," Booth said. "One that we've been wanting to do is a marriage enrichment conference for deaf across the state."

The 1992 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal is \$41 million.

"The offering, as far as the ministries I do, provides funds that we would not otherwise have," Booth said.

Booth is but one of more than 4,500 home missionaries who continue to face seemingly daunting challenges in taking the gospel to a nation where lost persons are in the majority. The latest figures from the Home Mission Board's research department in Atlanta indicate that of 252 million Americans, 173 million do not have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, said that Southern Baptists should look at the offering and the Week of Prayer for Home Missions as "a time for extravagance."

"In this day and time, it seems we are already living up to this concept — fancy homes, fine cars, designer clothes," O'Brien said. "However, as Christians, we need to focus on another kind of extravagance — extravagant praying and extravagant giving."

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, echoed the theme of "giving extravagantly" in light of the need and the urgency of reaching the nation for Christ.

James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, urged the men and boys of local churches to "redouble" their efforts in publicizing, praying for, and giving to home missions through the offering.

"Time is short, and the needs are so very great. But we can achieve it in God's mighty power and marvelous provision."

Barber writes for HMB.

Centrifuge camps will include one at Gulfshore Assembly

NASHVILLE — "Decision" is the theme of the 1992 Centrifuge programs, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Recreation Department.

Centrifuge will be held at seven stationary locations, including three colleges, two beachside camps, and Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Centers.

Beachside camps are being held at Endless Summer Retreat, Panama City, Fla., June 6-Aug. 12, and Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Mississippi, July 18-Aug. 6. Centrifuge on colleges campuses will be held June 6-Aug. 7 at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.; Union University in Jackson, Tenn.; and

Mobile (Ala.) College.

At Ridgecrest, Centrifuge sessions will be held between June 20 and Aug. 21; and at Glorieta, between June 6 and Aug. 14.

Beachside camps are from Saturday through Thursday and other stationary camps are from Saturday through Friday.

For information on these Centrifuge programs, call the respective state convention offices.

Information on Centrifuge registration for campers, seventh grade through high school, may be obtained by writing Centrifuge, Church Recreation Department, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

SCRIPTURES NOW TRANSLATED INTO 1,978 LANGUAGES: NEW YORK (ABS) — The number of languages into which at least one book of the Bible has been translated rose to 1,978 in 1991, according to the latest Scripture Language Report issued by the United Bible Societies office in Reading, England. Thirty-two languages received at least one book of the Bible in 1991 for the first time. Of the 32 "new" languages registered with the UBS last year, six now have New Testaments for the first time, and 26 now have Scripture Portions, which usually constitute a complete book of the Bible and always contain more than 24 bound pages. Complete Bibles were reported for the first time in four languages: two from Zaire, one from Guatemala, and one from Yugoslavia. This increased the number of languages with complete Bibles to 322.

Mississippi College would like to thank Mississippi Baptists and all other interested Mississippians for unyielding support and encouragement through the years. We are proud of our heritage and serious about our future commitment to higher education.

We appreciate the confidence you have expressed and pledge that we will continue to help students integrate their Christian faith into daily life, believing that "Faith Inspires Learning."

Watch WLBT, Channel 3, on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 5 p.m. for the program "Baptist Higher Education in Mississippi."*

Mississippi College is proud of its role in educating citizens of this state.

(* Program will not air should there be overtime in regular scheduled network programs.)

Observe Baptist Seminary, College and School Day
February 16, 1992



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
Clinton, MS 39058



Growth Spiral Conference will take place in Greenville

The sixth annual state-wide Growth Spiral Conference will be held on Feb. 25, at First Church, Greenville. Andy Anderson will lead the general session and the Advanced Growth Spiral Conference. Ken Marler will lead the Basic Growth Spiral Conference. A person must have attended a Basic Growth Spiral Conference before he or she can attend an Advanced Growth Spiral Conference.

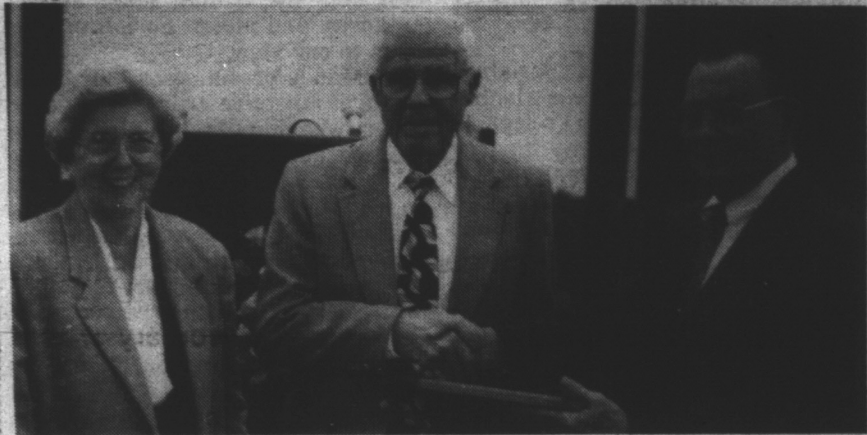
"The Growth Spiral is an effective tool in allowing a church to set goals and evaluate its progress toward reaching those goals. Over 100 churches in Mississippi have benefited from the use of the Growth Spiral," said Randy Tompkins, consultant, state Sunday School Department.

The Growth Spiral Conference will be preceded by a one day Sunday

School training event, Reaching People Conference, on Feb. 24, at First Church, Greenville. The basic thrust of the event will be to define methods and information to reach people. A Pastor/Church Staff Training Conference will be held from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Mike Espy, Bill Causey, Mike Robbins, Harry Vickery, and Keith Wilkinson.

A special training clinic will be held on Feb. 24 for Sunday School workers. The clinic will begin at 7 p.m. with 18 conferences. Anderson will be the featured speaker for the closing general session at 8:45 p.m.

All pastors, church staff members, Sunday School directors, and Sunday School workers are invited to participate in this special event.



Bobby Moore, Morgan City pastor, right, presents plaque to Ruble Cothran. At left is Mary (Mrs. Ruble) Cothran.

Morgan City honors deacon emeritus

Morgan City Church, Leflore Association, on Jan. 26 honored Ruble Cothran with a special program naming him deacon emeritus. Cothran was ordained in 1978 with James Fondren leading the service. D. Glenn Simmons, currently a missionary to South Africa, was then pastor of the church.

Bobby Moore, present pastor at Morgan City, opened the service by giving a statement of purpose and mission for the church.

The men of the church, led by Wayne Nichols, Brotherhood director, had charge of the program. After reading a passage from I Timothy 3:8-11 outlining qualifications for deacons and wives, Nichols introduced Mrs. Cothran, the honored deacon's wife of more than 50 years. Members of the Cothran family present included son, Ray, and daughter, Sandra Peoples, and their families. A second

daughter, Mary Joyce Lindsay, was unable to attend.

Each deacon paid tribute to Cothran's life. They were unanimous in praise of "Mr. Ruble's" unfailing Christian example as Sunday School teacher, promoter of missions, and generous friend. Deacons participating were David Hodges Sr., James E. Smith, Duke Kimbrough, Truman Carr, Bobby Morton, and George Ingram.

Moore, in presenting a commemorative plaque to Cothran, referred to the meaning of "emeritus," saying, "It applies to one who is commissioned to serve 'to the end.' Thus our intent is not to 'put out to pasture' or to 'retire,' but for you to keep on letting 'others see Jesus in you.' Your life has been an inspiration and example of what a deacon's life should be. Don't quit."

Staff changes

Trinity Church, Vicksburg, has called Chris Turner as minister of music and youth, effective Jan. 26. A native of Pascagoula, he is currently a student at Mississippi College.

Tylertown Church, Tylertown, has called Otho Jay (O.J.) Seals as minister of education and youth activities. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Pine Grove Church, Picayune. Wayne Kimbrough is pastor.



Seals

Providence Church, Hattiesburg, has called Daniel Lee as its first full time minister of music and youth, effective Feb. 2. He received his education at University of Southern Mississippi. His previous place of service was First Church, Sumrall.

Southern Hills Church, Natchez, has called Les D. Blanton of New Orleans as pastor, effective date of Nov. 17. A native of Charlotte, N.C., he received his education at Embury-Riddle University, Daytona Beach, Fla., and is a student at New Orleans Seminary. He was previously assistant pastor at Home Garden Chapel, Jacksonville, Fla.

Just for the Record

Volunteers in Missions Banquet, sponsored by Lee Association, will be held at Parkway Church, Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Phyllis Foy, Mooreville, N.C., will be the featured speaker. Foy is the director of Mission Service Corps, North Carolina Convention.

Castlewoods Church, Brandon, will begin a Lay Institute for Equipping on Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. L.I.F.E. is an educational system designed to provide quality education to lay persons in the areas of discipleship, leadership, and ministry. Larry McDonald, pastor, will lead the L.I.F.E. study.

Treasure Valley Baptist Association and Magic Valley Baptist Association are searching for a director of missions who would serve both associations in the Northwest Convention. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 911 South Cole Road, Boise, Idaho 83709.

Husband, friends grieve loss of mother and unborn child

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP) — Family and friends of Susan Scirratt remembered her life and mourned her death during funeral services at First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, Feb. 5.

Scirratt, wife of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student Martin Scirratt, died Feb. 2 after being accidentally shot by her husband. The accident also claimed the life of the couple's unborn child.

She is survived by her husband, a 3-year-old son, her parents, and two brothers.

A memorial fund for Susan Scirratt has been established at the Buckner Baptist Children's Home in Dallas. The Arlington church has set up a trust fund for the couple's surviving son.

Friends of Susan Scirratt described her as a loving mother and wife who was dedicated to her church and to her career as a teacher at Mansfield (Texas) High School.

Friends said the Scirratts' marriage was a model of love and respect. "Marty put his wife and family first," Andrews said. "Even church activities did not come before his wife."

Pastor Charles Wade said Scirratt is feeling "a lot of hurt and pain, love and hope. Marty is working through a lot of shock and confusion. He just feels horrible about what happened."

The Scirratts were active at the Arlington church. Martin is minister to singles and Susan was active in the church's choir. Martin is the son of James Scirratt, former pastor of Woodland Hills Church in Jackson.

Mrs. Virginia Newsom, Tunica, dies at 87

Virginia Crenshaw Newsom, retired merchant, died Jan. 29, at age 87. The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Feb. 1 at First Church, Tunica, where she was a member. Harrison Johns and Dennis Trull officiated.

Mrs. Newsom had taught young people in Sunday School for over 25 years. She also sang in the choir in the church at Tunica and also at the Baptist church in Glorieta, New Mexico, where she maintained a home and where she spent half her time.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Virginia Lee Henderson of Kosciusko; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Lottie Moon goals met

Lucien Church, Franklin Association, set a goal of \$1,200 for its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The amount received was \$1,545, the largest offering ever given by the church.

First Church, Gautier, was successful in reaching its goal of \$15,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The church observed its "All the Way in One Day" missions march on Dec. 8. By the end of December, the offering had reached \$15,898.04, the largest amount the church has ever received for foreign missions. Billy R. Williams is pastor.

FMB

From page 3

new "global ambition." The letter urges the FMB to confront "liberalism" around the world and develop relationships with the "emerging leadership" of Europe instead of with traditional Baptist unions.

Hancock said it was "an invasion of privacy" for the letter to be disclosed, circulated, and "promoted anonymously as propaganda all over the world." Neither Hancock nor Wilson has said how the letter became public.

"There was not one single item in that letter that was... implemented by the chairman," said Hancock, a pastor from Louisville, Ky.

Trustee Bill Blanchard of Tennessee said the fact Wilson's suggestions were not put into place is evidence the trustees don't have a global agenda.

"Of the seven (Wilson) recommendations, none was followed," Blanchard said.

"That's hardly a basis for a global agenda."

Following the lead of the chairman's council, the group of trustee leaders that interviewed Parks in private, trustees voted unanimously to affirm their current statement of missions principles, to discuss their strategy for missions openly, and to

pursue dialogue with European Baptists intended to "determine partnership, relationships, and ministry in Europe."

Trustee Paige Patterson of Dallas later said he has "some disagreement" with Parks over the board's news policy. But he said trustee leaders weren't so concerned with establishing fault as getting assurances from Parks that he would "keep this from happening again."

Although specific precautions were not decided upon, Patterson said, there was unanimous agreement in the chairman's council "that we need to be sure we don't get another one-sided situation."

Patterson would not predict if Parks would remain as FMB president, but he said Parks is not indispensable for the board to accomplish its mission. "I don't think any individual is absolutely essential to the Lord's work except Jesus Christ," he said.

Patterson confirmed that he and other trustee leaders discussed how to resolve the dispute in a conference call a week prior to the February meeting. That set the tone for the Feb. 10 session, he said.

"If our purpose was to fire Dr. Parks, we could have done that," he said. "We have the votes to do it. But that's not our objective. Our objective is genuine cooperation."

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Names in the news

Thursday, February 13, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Four directors of missions from Mississippi who attended the Directors of Mission Update, Jan. 17-20, at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., were Glen Williams, Pike Association; Ervin Brown, Northwest Association; Arthur Leslie, Grenada Association; and M. C. Johnson, North Delta and Tallahatchie Associations.

Temple Church of Big Point near Pascagoula commissioned Walter and Deane Johnson as missionaries, Feb. 2. They will be serving in the Philippines. Ernest Sadler, director of missions; Randy Davis, pastor of Vancleave Church and member of the Foreign Mission Board; Jim Spencer; and Billy Barton joined in the commissioning service. Larry Dees is pastor.

Letters to the editor

Dockside gambling casinos in Harrison Co.?

Editor:

As many of you know, Biloxi and the rest of Harrison County must vote again on March 10 on whether to allow dockside gambling casinos to operate. Most of us felt it was a miracle of our Lord when we defeated this issue by about 1,000 votes in December of 1990. Presently, the law allows this vote to come up year after year. If ever approved, casinos will be legal on a permanent basis.

Families For Quality Life is our local organization of citizens from many different denominations opposing this legalization. They also manage all funds and donations. I realize I cannot speak for all our participants, but I feel I know the heartbreak of this group as we solicit your support in two ways. First, I ask you to join with us as we earnestly pray. It will certainly take another great miracle for us to achieve victory. Second, I would like to encourage people across our state who have enjoyed family vacations to the coast, to write letters to the editor of our local paper in support of our family-oriented tourist environment. Dockside gambling will certainly destroy the family-fun atmosphere of our lovely coast. Letters must include name, address, phone number, and must be signed. Only the name and community will be printed. Send letters to Editor, The Sun Herald, P. O. Box 4567, Biloxi, MS 39535.

I personally thank you for your interest and support of our efforts.

Frank Gunn
Biloxi

West Laurel Church plans homecoming

Editor:

We would very much appreciate it if you would begin announcing our homecoming events. We would like to invite all former members and friends of West Laurel Church, Laurel. However, we are having difficulty in locating some of them. Please announce that if a former member or a friend of West Laurel Church has not received a letter about the homecoming events, contact Terri Hutson, church secretary, 1400 W. 5th Street, Laurel, MS 39440 or call (601) 649-1552 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The homecoming events will begin April 4 in the Family Life Building. There will be an informal get-together and this will be a special "Fun" time for fellowship, reminiscing, and visiting. Bring any pictures that you may have. Then April 5, Joe Hinton, pastor from 1961-1964, will bring the message and Kenneth Jacobs, former minister of music, will lead the singing.

Soul-winning effort prior to SBC

Editor:

On Saturday, June 6, Southern Baptists in Indiana will be joined by fellow Baptists in the great door-to-door soul-winning effort prior to this year's SBC. As a new work or pioneer state, Indiana has a great need for co-laborers in this effort. This will be the first such effort in a new work state since the inaugural effort in 1989 at Las Vegas.

I cannot describe how significant this will be to us. For almost two years we have been praying. We are asking Southern Baptists from all across the country to participate in a real-live home missions effort. Indianapolis, the crossroads of the Midwest, is ripe unto harvest. Before doing the important business work at the convention, let's all do the main business before it begins, that of winning people to Jesus! Please contact our Indianapolis Metropolitan Association to sign up or to get more information. Their address is: 952 North Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 636-6728.

Alvin L. Reid,
director of evangelism
Indiana Convention

Two wrongs don't make right

Editor:

The letter entitled "Fight to stop all tragedies" demands a response. First let me say that abortion is not only wrong as a means of birth control but in all cases. Remember God is the Creator of life and man is to protect it. Some say: "But what about incest and rape?" Two wrongs don't make a right. These sins should not lead to the sin of murdering the innocent: many are glad that Ethel Waters' (the gospel singer who sang for Billy Graham) mother did not abort her though she was conceived as a result of rape. If any mother doesn't want her baby, someone does.

Second, according to the Bible there are degrees of sin. A person who lies doesn't receive the death penalty and likewise a person who murders shouldn't receive paradise here on earth. Scripture teaches that the greatest moral human sin is to take the life of another human being. So abortion is the "ultimate sin" morally speaking, therefore it should be an issue to receive ultimate attention from the Christian body. It is also the ultimate atrocity against a human life. These babies never get to enjoy ONE day of life outside the womb. Someone murdered later in life at least got to enjoy some days on earth.

Third, to say, "All babies who die go to heaven" is unbiblically founded; Scripture is silent on this issue. Also it is wrong to use such an argument to defend breaking a clear commandment of God (Ex. 20:13).

Thomas E. Winn
Brookhaven

Retirement package equals \$115,000

By Herb Hollinger

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — The retirement package for President Lewis A. Drummond which Southeastern Seminary trustees have been asked to approve amounts to a one-time cash gift of \$115,000 plus normal retirement benefits.

A seminary trustee, who asked not to be identified, told Baptist Press the package includes Drummond's base salary of \$70,000 for one year, plus seven months of that salary as sabbatic pay plus his seminary car and some furnishings from the presidential residence.

However, he reiterated that the agreement, worked out by the trustees' executive committee Jan. 30 on the Wake Forest campus, must be approved by the full board of trustees March 9-11. A mail ballot has been asked by the executive committee for the trustees to approve Drummond's

resignation so the search process could begin immediately.

He also told Baptist Press, contrary to a published report by Associated Baptist Press, that Drummond did not ask for "much more" in earlier negotiations. The trustee said Drummond contacted trustee leadership in December in which Drummond indicated he wanted to retire.

Normal retirement benefits for an administrator of Drummond's level and 10 years of service would include a one-time payment of 10% of his salary, a life insurance policy valued

at \$20,000, vacation pay due, a Medicare supplement, and use of the seminary's health center. Drummond's salary and benefit package has been reported to be about \$100,000, of which \$70,000 is the base salary.

The Associated Baptist Press reported Drummond had asked for an ongoing salary commitment but the trustee said that was untrue.

"The only part of the agreement which is not part of a normal retirement package would be the \$70,000 one-time gift plus giving Drummond the seminary car which has more than 50,000 miles on it," the trustee told Baptist Press. "That's not a golden parachute."

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.

DRUMMOND

From page 3

probation, and we are concerned about student recruitment and faculty recruitment. But I do not lay that at his feet."

One trustee said Drummond got almost everything he asked for.

Drummond, who taught evangelism at Southern Seminary before going to Southeastern, reportedly will be offered an evangelism professorship at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Trustees briefly discussed the Beeson situation during their closed session, according to one trustee, but Drummond reportedly said no decision had been made.

Trustee leaders at Southeastern are recommending that the school's new Center for Great Commission Studies be named for retiring President Lewis Drummond, who established the center.

According to Southeastern's bylaws, the executive committee serves as the search committee to find Drummond's successor. Trustees would not comment on reports that Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, is the leading candidate.

Patterson, a key leader in the fundamental-conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, was highly considered for the post in 1988.

Revival dates

Sturgis Church, Oktibbeha: Feb. 21-22; Ben Yarber, Canaan Church, Columbus, evangelist; services, Friday, 7 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; "Home Life Revival" is the theme; Steve Lammons, pastor.

West End Church, West Point: youth revival, Feb. 14-16; Clayton Littlejohn, pastor, Blackwater Church, Daleville, evangelist; Steve Reynolds, youth/music minister, Siloam Church, West Point, music evangelist; Terry Partin, pastor; Eric Kachur, minister of music and youth.

Fellowship Church, Union Community (Jones): Feb. 17-21; 7:30 p.m.; Steve Pouncey, pastor, Houston Road Church (Jones), evangelist; Robert Bolling, music; Randy Clark, pastor.

Southside Church (Yazoo): Feb. 16-18; Jim Everett, pastor, Southside Church, Yazoo City, evangelist; Mrs. Ruby Doris Woodruff, Southside Church, Yazoo City, music; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.

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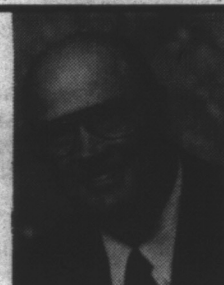
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New president welcomes Mississippi Brotherhood leaders

MEMPHIS — James D. Williams, right, new president of the Brotherhood Commission, welcomed Mississippi Convention Brotherhood leaders Dan West, manager, Central Hills Retreat, Kosciusko; Jim Didlake, consultant;

and Paul Harrell, director, to the recent National Brotherhood Leadership Conference. The annual meeting brings state leaders together with the agency's staff for consultations on its activities and programs. (Photo by David Nester)

Home Mission Board offers summer mission opportunities

ATLANTA (BP) — March 10 is the deadline for applications for student missions and Innovators, two summer missions programs offered to college and seminary students by the Home Mission Board.

Serving in all 50 states, summer missionaries assist home missionaries. More than 1,500 positions are available in such outreach as resort ministry, church starting, and language missions. These positions are in addition to opportunities of-

fered by local Baptist Student Unions.

To qualify as a HMB summer missionary, a student must be enrolled in college or seminary, have completed one year of college, be a member of a Baptist church, and have good health. Applicants will be placed in ministries according to need and ability.

To receive an application and sample list of available student missions and Innovator positions, call 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

EUROPE

From page 3

from the former Soviet Union — the general secretary for the overall Baptist union, the general superintendent for all Ukraine (where half of all Baptist churches in the former Soviet territories are located), and the leader of the Baptist seminary in Odessa, Ukraine.

The Foreign Mission Board has been preparing a major "Green Alert" missions effort in the former Soviet region.

The elements are: (1) "Mutual respect in which the partners deal with each other with candor but with Christian courtesy (Ephesians 4:1-3); (2) Spiritual freedom in which the partners, working within a common commitment, recognize and welcome differences of outlook and diversity of practice (Romans 15:7; Mark 9:38-41); (3) Moral integrity in which the partners honor and maintain solemnly made agreements (II Corinthians 1:12-17); (4) Genuine consultation in which the partners confer together and aim for mutual consent (II Corinthians 8:8-9); and (5) Reciprocal sharing in which the partners learn, work, and grow together, each giving and receiving (Romans 1:11-12)."

"We would see the above understanding as basic to any partnership into which we would wish to enter as European Baptists or with any overseas Baptist mission agency," the Dorfweil statement said. "In the light of recent events in Richmond we feel the need to know what is to be the nature of any future relationship with the Foreign Mission Board."

"Is it to be on the basis of the kind of partnership outlined above (the five elements)?"

The statement also expressed hurt and unhappiness over statements made by FMB trustees in October and December: "We have felt keenly the derogatory remarks made by some members of the Board of Trustees about European Baptists and their leadership. We dare to believe such remarks would not have been made had there been more personal contact between the trustees and our churches."

"It was a matter of even greater dismay to us when the decision was not rescinded in the light of the protests and requests that came from all over Europe and the United States and the representations made" by European and seminary leaders.

The statement also voiced appreciation for Isam Ballenger, FMB vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, and Keith Parker, area director for Europe, who have announced early retirement in protest of the trustees' actions. "We have noted with deep concern the reasons they have given for their decisions and wish to register our own disquiet at what would appear to be a major departure from long-standing Foreign Mission Board policy," the statement said.

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Missionaries highlight agricultural meeting

Two agricultural missionaries will highlight this year's annual meeting of the Agricultural Missions Foundation at First Church, Byram, on Friday, Feb. 21.

The business session will begin at 3:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., and concluding general session at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Mississippi's own Frank B. Pevey, agricultural evangelist serving in Tanzania, and Kurt A. Lawrence, Southern Baptist missionary to Thailand, will discuss their work in two cultures.

Agricultural Missions Foundation was started over 20 years ago by the

late Owen Cooper, Jerry Clower, and Gene Triggs, all of Yazoo City. The purpose of the organization is to support agricultural projects of the Foreign Mission Board. AMF stresses that financial support afforded these missionaries be "over and above" regular giving through the local church and the Cooperative Program. Churches in the Jackson area are encouraged to promote attendance by interested individuals, missions organizations, and men's groups.

Reservations are needed for the dinner; call First Church, Byram at 372-3156. Charge for the dinner is \$5 per plate.

Virginia Baptists send \$100,000

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The \$100,000 allocated by Virginia Baptists last fall to the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, has been given to the Foreign Mission Board to be transmitted to the international seminary.

In related action, treasurer of the Baptist General Association of Virginia Nathaniel W. Kellum reported his office had received \$40,573 by the end of January from individuals and churches in Virginia designated for Ruschlikon.

The bulk of that amount — \$38,741 — arrived during January. An additional \$1,832 was given during December.

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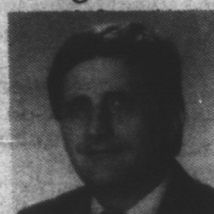
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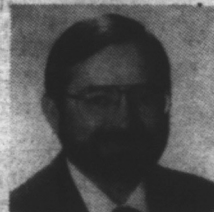
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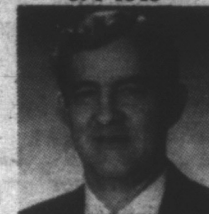
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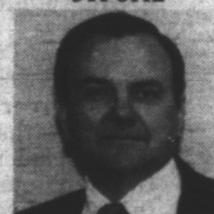
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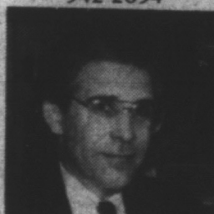
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Coming in faith — Jesus meets the needs



LIFE AND WORK

By Lola M. Autry
Matthew 8:1-17

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The name of Jesus is not so much written as plowed into the history of the world." Daniel Webster once let it be known that he felt the need for a super-human Savior, and that Savior was Jesus Christ. This God-Man whose name is revered above all names met Webster's need, and he meets the needs of those who come to him in faith, in accordance with his purposes.

Jesus heals the leper (vv. 1-3). Jesus taught as

one having authority (Matt. 7:29), and the multitudes followed him. Among them was a leper. Leprosy was considered a particular mark of God's displeasure. The doctors could not cure it. The leper came to Jesus with faith. "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Jesus, because of the man's faith, took away the leprosy. Sin, leprosy of the soul, bears the mark of God's displeasure. We can be cleansed of sin when we come to Jesus with faith, seeking that cleansing.

The centurion acknowledges Jesus' authority (vv. 5-9). Jesus, the healer of bodies as well as souls, listened as a centurion — an officer of the Roman army — begged for help for his servant. Jesus as a man and as a Jew was under this officer's subjection, yet this non-Jew recognized Jesus' authority as greater than his. Jesus, the ever-compassionate One, said, "I will come and heal him." With humility toward Jesus the centurion pleaded unworthiness that Jesus should even enter his house, and begged in belief that

the Lord need only speak the necessary words.

Jesus affirms the centurion's faith (vv. 10-12). Jesus declares this man's faith as greater than any he had found in Israel. The thing Christ seeks in all of us is faith in him; belief that he is who he claims to be, and that he will do what he promises. This he found in the centurion. For lack of this kind of faith he spoke to Israel's shame. We can transfer that guilt to ourselves when we do not acknowledge him as Lord and Savior.

The leper was a Jew; the centurion, a Gentile. Jesus came to save all who believe on him. Verse 11 speaks of both Jew and Gentile together in the kingdom of heaven. Verse 12 says the Jews had boasted as being God's chosen children. In this verse Jesus says this privilege will no longer be theirs alone. The fact that they had been God's chosen race would not save them if they refused to believe in God's only begotten Son. Unbelieving Jews would be cast into outer darkness. Even so, anyone not believing in

Jesus will be cast away. Salvation is a personal thing. No one can be saved for another.

Jesus heals the servant (v. 13). Jesus, knowing the centurion's belief, granted his request. The servant was healed. Here is a prime example of the power of believing prayer. Jesus said to the man, "As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee." He says to us in Matthew 21:22, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Jesus, the Messiah-King, has the authority, the power, the willingness to save to the uttermost all who believe in him. He asks simply that we come to him in faith, knowing he is able to do that which he says he can do. John 3:16 states, "for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We can then present our needs and he will meet them in accordance with his purposes.

Autry lives in Hickory Flat.

God's Word speaks through Hosea's marriage



BIBLE BOOK

By Charles E. Nestor

Hosea 1:1-3; 2:6-8; 19-20, 23; 3:1-3

The book of Hosea, like Amos, deals with the judgment of God on the Northern Kingdom. Hosea's name means "salvation." He speaks of the fact and reasons for God's judgment, but his main emphasis is on victory through God's redeeming love in the salvation of Israel as a people of God.

I. God's call to Hosea (1:1). Little is known about the prophet Hosea. He was a native of the Northern Kingdom. The Scripture indicates that God called him to be a prophet. There is the mention of kings who served both Northern and Southern Kingdoms. This indicates Hosea was a contemporary of Amos and Isaiah and probably served from 750-722 B.C. Mainly, Hosea is known as the prophet who spoke of God's redeeming love, and he was faithful to that ministry.

II. God tells Hosea to marry (1:2-3). God's command to Hosea is quite different from other prophets. Hosea was told to go and take a wife of harlotry or whoredom. Our purpose is not to make an attempt to explain such instructions but to be open to hear the message God has for us. There is no indication that this was a "forced" marriage by God, but the woman Hosea was to marry was not a virgin. It is important to note that Hosea was one who walked with God and that equipped him for God to speak through. Marriage is used as a symbol of Israel's relationship to God, and Hosea uses "harlotry" to describe religious faithlessness.

Hosea's marriage was to be an illustration of God and Israel. It was used to describe their unfaithfulness to God and his redeeming love for them. The names of the children born to this marriage are a picture of Israel. The first was a son named Jezreel or "the Lord sows or scatters." The name describes the judgment God would bring on the house of Israel. Other names indicate God will no longer give ear to the Northern Kingdom nor treat them as his people any more that Hosea could continue treating Gomer as his wife.

The writer in *Broadman Commentary* makes a profound statement concerning Hosea:

"Hosea's ministry was grounded in the assumption that what God spoke through him was predicated upon the fact that God had first spoken to him." We must also allow God to speak to us before he can use us as effective witnesses for him.

III. Unfaithfulness of Gomer and Israel (2:6-8). Gomer's unfaithfulness to Hosea is an illustration of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. Both had spurned the love of the one who cared for them more than anyone else. This seems to be the story of humanity. We so often hurt those who love us more than we hurt anyone else. Hosea's love would not let Gomer go, nor would God's love let Israel go. True love is not defeated by those who choose to do it wrong. When sin is in control, it will blind us to that which is right, honorable, and true. Israel gave her love and devotion to Baal and offered sacrifices to him. They had become blind to the fact that Jehovah was the only true God, and he was the one who provided them with the sacrifices they gave to a pagan god.

IV. God's promise of a new covenant (2:19-20, 23). Hosea uses the metaphor of marriage to describe the new relationship God will have with his people. This renewed commitment will be forever. The consummation of the commitment will be by the knowledge of the Lord.

The names of Hosea and Gomer's children are now used to describe the new relationship, based on the new covenant. Israel will not be scattered, without pity, nor estranged from God. They will be brought together, loved, and called his people. God's promise is still true today. He loves us and wants us to live in faithfulness to his covenant.

V. God's love demonstrated in redemption (3:1-3). It is apparent that Hosea's love is rooted in God's love. In the redemptive process of Hosea for Gomer, we observe the redeeming love of God for Israel. God did not give up on the Israelites because they sinned. Gomer was placed in a home setting where she would have opportunity to respond to Hosea's redeeming love. She was removed from those relationships which could influence unfaithfulness. God's redeeming love called Israel out of worship and fellowship with false gods. They were his people and he was their God.

Israel was able to abide in his fellowship. God continues to call people out of sin and redeem them to himself. We are able to abide in him and continue in his truth. It is forever. Be careful with whom you develop quality relationships. God's people are to remain faithful to him.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

Christians should adopt servant spirit and attitude



UNIFORM

By Bobby Williamson
Philippians 2:1-11

One of the most critical issues facing the Christian community today is the issue of servanthood. Many of us have grown up during a time when we have been pampered and have not learned the biblical principle of being servants.

Our lesson this week focuses on the fact that we should relate to one another with servant attitudes, and not the world's attitude of, "what can you do for me?"

Proper relationship (2:1-2)

"If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ," might at first glance lead us to believe that this passage is for those only who sense encouragement very strongly in Christ. We know, however, that Christ intends for all Christians to find encouragement in him. We must look at this statement.

If you study the original text, you will find that "if" would be better stated as "since." This would clarify the intended meaning of these wonderful words.

Because of the blessings and resources of being united in Christ, we Christians should certainly be united with one another. As we apply the lesson this week, let us renew our efforts to work in harmony with fellow believers.

Proper perspective (2:3-4)

You have heard it said that one of the biggest problems today is that so many people have "I

problems. It seems epidemic in our society, and yes, even in our churches.

These verse tell us clearly to regard others as more important than ourselves and to look out for the interests of others. This one biblical principle applied to the lives of church members would revolutionize our world. As we learn this, I believe we will stop hearing statements in our churches such as "my committee," or "my Sunday School room," implying that they belong to us. Our attitudes will change these phrases to "our committee," and "our Sunday School room." When we learn these principles at church, we will learn to apply them in our daily lives.

Proper example (2:9-11)

Who is our supreme example in being a servant? Verse 5 tells us to have the same servant attitude which was in Christ Jesus. Certainly this example should lead each of us to adopt the servant attitude Christ displayed. What are some of

the true marks of a Christian leader? I believe trust is a key characteristic. If people trust you enough and believe you have their best interests at heart, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish in a leadership position. Pastors would be well reminded here of Hebrews 13:17, leaders "watch for your souls," and I believe our precious people will follow if they believe that you care for their souls.

Proper encouragement (2:9-11)

"Therefore also God highly exalted him," rings loudly the fact that Christians should reaffirm Christ's lordship in our lives. God's exaltation of Christ shows that he highly values and rewards persons who have servant spirits.

Do you have the spirit of a servant? Let's each of us resolve this week to express the attitude of a servant in one action toward a fellow believer.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

Knights minister at truckers' center

"Strangers come to you . . ."

Volunteer ministry at the Truckers and Travelers Welcome Center in Pascagoula is highly recommended by two of the first out-of-town volunteers to staff the center on a live-in basis.

Jimmy Knight, evangelist, and his wife, Alane, of Laurel, spent three days and two nights at the center a couple of weeks after it opened in December and reported that it was both interesting and exciting to be a part of the new ministry of the Jackson County Baptist Association.

"This is going to be a tremendous opportunity for Christians who want to be involved in ministering to people's physical and spiritual needs," said Knight.

The Knights stayed in the private, two-bedroom apartment for volunteer workers located in the rear of the center. They welcomed truckers, travelers, and other visitors to the center, served coffee and snacks, held short devotionals, and found plenty of opportunity to witness.

"Most Christians are hesitant to go out knocking on doors to witness to strangers, but in this situation, strangers come to you, often asking why you are there," said Knight. "It is a natural witnessing situation. As people come in, you ask where they are from, what kind of work they do, about their family. It is easy to move from that personal interest into talking about their relationship with the Lord."

The highlight of their time at the center came when they got to pray and rejoice with the first person to receive Christ as Savior as a result of

the center's ministry. The trucker came into the center to share the exciting news that he had given his life



Alane and Jimmy Knight

to the Lord. He had visited the center during the previous week at a time when he was having family and personal problems and was depressed and confused. Workers at the center had counseled with him, encouraged him, and told him about salvation through Jesus Christ.

"He walked in the door with the biggest smile on his face you have ever seen," said Mrs. Knight. "He was so excited it was like he was walking on a cloud."

The trucker told the Knights that as a result of the counsel and concern he

had received at the center, his life had been turned around. He had found solutions to some of his difficulties and his outlook had changed because someone had cared about him.

"The man here also told me that I needed to give my heart to the Lord and I did that while I was driving down the road," he said. "My whole life has changed. I'm on my way to California with a load, but I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate this. I will be back whenever I can get back through here."

Almost everyone who came in had a story to tell and seemed to appreciate just having someone to listen. One driver told the Knights that many truckers are lonely people who are convinced that no one cares about them. A hitchhiker talked about his longing to be respected.

"Being at the center reminded us that not everyone lives the same kind of life that we do, but they still need to know that they are valuable and loved and, most of all, that God loves them," said Knight. "It isn't often you get a chance to share a cup of coffee and talk about the Lord with a young man who sleeps under bridges."

During the first month of operation for the center, workers recorded visits by 87 truckers and 38 hitchhikers, along with other visitors representing a total of 25 states and two foreign countries. As word about the center spreads among truckers, those numbers are expected to greatly increase.

While the Knights were there, one woman was reluctant to come in with



Jimmy Knight and Bob Storie

her husband, a trucker who stopped in for a shower. But once she sat down with a cup of coffee and got to talk, she really seemed to enjoy it.

"There are more women on the road these days, either as truckers themselves or traveling with their husbands. They seem to feel more comfortable with another woman around. I think the center is a great opportunity for couples to minister together," said Mrs. Knight.

Out-of-town volunteers who staff the center for several days can be relieved as necessary by local volunteers to allow breaks for sight seeing, relaxing, or catching a little extra sleep. The center opens at 6 a.m. each morning and closes at 10 p.m.

Bob Storie, director of ministries for the Jackson County Baptist Association, is in charge of scheduling volunteers to staff the center. He and his wife, Maudie, spend a good deal of time there, too. New volunteers are

thoroughly briefed on facilities and policies.

"It is always a joy to work with Bob Storie. He is always available to answer questions and give support as needed as volunteers," said Knight, who led a mission construction team that did renovations on the Jackson County ministries center in the summer of 1990. "We would encourage anyone who is interested in working as a volunteer in this ministry to contact him by calling 769-7101. It was a blessing to us and we look forward to going back."

EDITOR'S NOTE: A native of Laurel, Jimmy Knight has been in fulltime preaching and music evangelism since 1979. Mrs. Knight is a freelance writer and former newspaper editor. They are members of Bethlehem Church in Laurel. Their address is Route 2 Box 683, Laurel, MS 39440; telephone 428-1366.

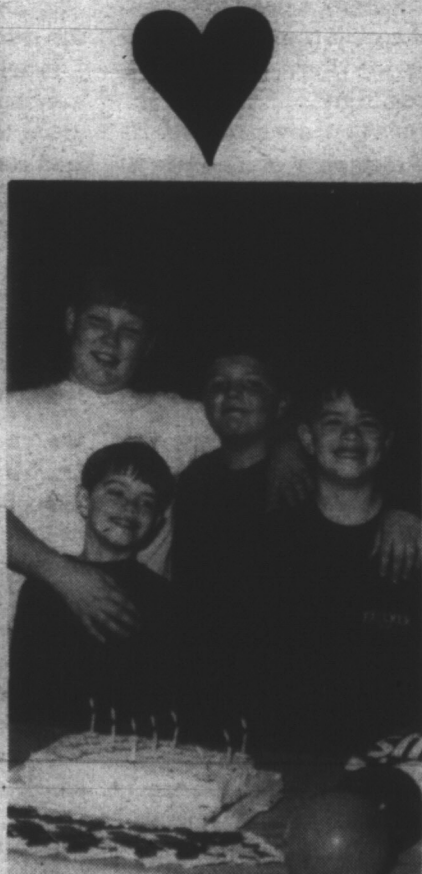
CHILDREN'S PAGE

Pen Pal Club

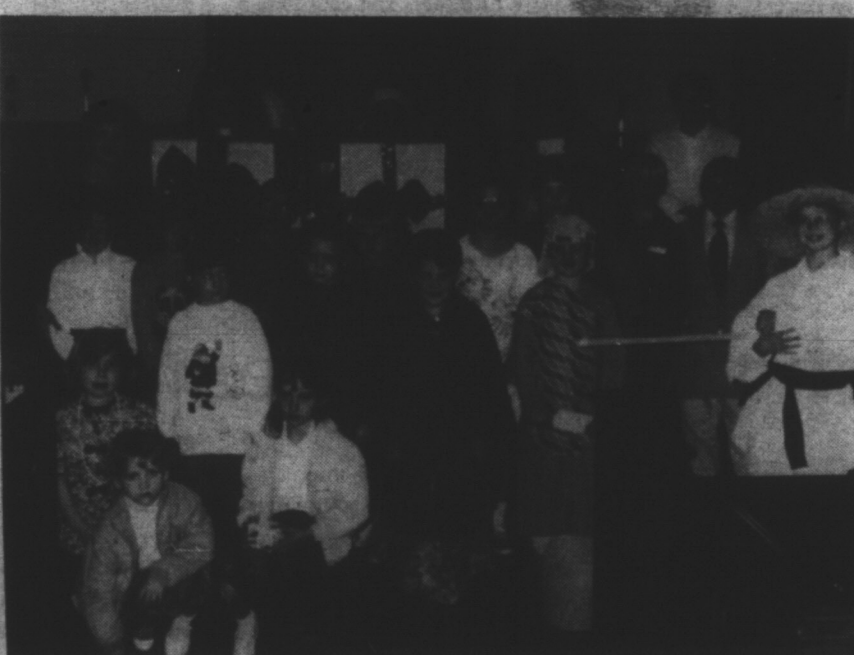


Romanian visitor

Alexandru Voinescu of Romania, age 8, visited a second grade class at Philadelphia Elementary School, while he and his mother were guests of their friend, Cornel Petrassevich, a retired doctor who lives in Philadelphia. Before that visit to the school, he had never before eaten lunchroom food or ridden a school bus or worn tennis shoes. Later he told his mother, who is a dentist, "Mama, I do not want to return to Romania! It is cold there! I want to stay here in America. I love it!"



Royal Ambassadors of Bluff Springs Church, Benton-Tippah Association, sponsored a birthday party in honor of Jesus. The toys brought to the party were given to children in the community and to Toys for Tots. Pictured, are Jeff and Brandon Roberts and Timothy and Mark Smith. Jackie Smith is RA director.



Pope Church, Panola Association, held a Christmas mission special Dec. 18, in which children of the congregation dressed as missionaries from all over the world. Those who participated are pictured: left to right, first row, Monica Mills, Charlotte Mills; second row, Amanda Rikard, Brittany Boggan, Nicole Benson, Pam Williford, Brittany Flippo, Will Florence; third row, Nikki Mills, Jessica Mills, Jessica Boggan, Chris Gianelloni, Brandon Presley, Heather Mills, Erica Boggan, Mitchell Daughtery, Kevin Roberson, David Odom; fourth row, Lelaini Marshall, Emily Broome, Elizabeth Flippo, Kate Florence, Ashley Lewis, and Shelia Flippo. Al Mullan is pastor.

Hi,
My name is Anna Rich. I am 9½ years old. I like school, skating, and swimming. I really like writing letters. If you would like a pen pal write to me.

Love,
Anna Rich
Rt. 1, Box 450-J
Byhalia, MS 38611

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